

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday February 22, 2022
(Approved 3/8/22)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:03pm.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher(chair), John McNerney, Bill Martin

Members absent: Marikate Kelley, Paul Low

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Susan Mahony, Ivor Hughes, Jane Palmer, Nancy Wilson, Callie Brynn, Pete Dufault, Jaime Schulte

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher said Age Well and “grab and go” for seniors 60 and over is a program just getting off the ground and there are a number of volunteers willing to get it going in Monkton.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes as written. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

B. Martin moved to approve AP 20210 in the amount of \$2,193.95. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Martin moved to approve PR 20214 in the amount \$11,891.23. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

B. Martin moved to approve AP 20214 in the amount of \$76,615.47. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 20222 in the amount of \$24,029.65. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were approved:

Vermont Well & Pump

Spence Excavating & Construction, Inc

Poulin Grain Inc.

Chevalier Drilling Co., Inc

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENTS – CONSERVATION COMMISSION, ENERGY COMMITTEE

J. McNerney moved to appoint Nancy Wilson to the Conservation Commission to a term expiring March 2023. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.

NATURE CONSERVANCY PROPOSAL RE: NO PARKING ALONG ROTAX

S. Mahony, speaking as a committee member of ANAC, said that Raven Ridge parking has been heavily used, leading people to park on the roadside of Rotax. This is a safety issue as sightlines are poor in the area and people are parking in the road, restricting the room for traffic to pass. Lynn McNamara of The Nature Conservancy has suggested posting no parking signs for safety. They will pay for the signs if the town of Monkton will put them in. J. Palmer said that they spoke with the Select Board last summer about this issue. She noted that the trails are getting heavily used leading to a lot of parked cars. J. Palmer counted 27 cars one day. S. Pilcher said the Board has created a new traffic ordinance that says you cannot park on the traveled portion of the road and authorizing the towing of cars who violate this. J. McNerney pointed out that parking in the traveled portion of the road is already a violation of state law. The small parking lot was intended to limit visitors to the property, minimizing adverse effects on wildlife and sensitive natural communities. It has not worked out that way, since people are just parking in the road. S. Pilcher noted that a search reveals Raven Ridge as the best trail in Addison County. B. Martin suggested posting both sides of the road.

S. Pilcher said the Nature Conservancy is supposed to be stewards of the land. The challenge becomes who polices the parking. J. Palmer noted that the area has sort of become a park instead of wildlife preserve. J. McNerney suggested a sign that quotes the state law about no parking on the traveled portion of the lane. S. Pilcher suggested that 8 signs may be needed. S. Mahony asked if the parking area should be expanded by the Nature Conservancy? S. Mahony said she will work with J. McNerney on the sign wording. S. Pilcher thanked S. Mahony for being willing to do this work.

(NEWS FROM MONKTON PLANNING COMMISSION)

Ivor Hughes said that the MPC has formed a sub committee to look at affordable housing. He wondered if the Select Board had received a letter requesting funding to buy land for that purpose. S. Pilcher had an email but not a letter. I. Hughes also said the MPC is revising the UPD to meet the May date to have it ready to place before the voters.

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

S. Pilcher said Adam Lougee of ACRP has been interested in bringing historical buildings back into current use. He put together a funders meeting to explore restoration of the old town hall. S. Pilcher got a bid on the exterior painting of the old town hall for \$9000. He asked P. Low to estimate fixing up the interior: \$102,000. S. Pilcher is also looking at the cost to increase septic capacity. There were 7-8 organizations at the funders meeting.

J. McNerney mentioned that S. Pilcher had mentioned in a previous meeting there was another potential user of that building. S. Pilcher said the idea is to find a sustainable use for the building. There needs to be something that will pay to keep the building open: an art center, a senior center, child care center.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS

C. Brynn, town forest committee, said Monkton is working on finding land for a town/community forest and requests up to \$100,000 in funds. J. Schulte said there is a lot of use of Raven Ridge so this seems like a good investment for the town. S. Pilcher said ARPA funds would cover a small amount of the needs and wondered if they had looked for funds elsewhere. J. McNerney replied yes. S. Pilcher asked if there is a timeline or next step. C. Brynn said the next step is to find the property and get an appraisal. J. Schulte said he understood that there is an ARPA timing issue: all agreed that this seems workable. S. Pilcher asked if the current plan for a Monkton town forest would include recreational activities. J. McNerney replied yes, that was a major community interest. S. Pilcher said the board should start picking projects that will receive ARPA funding sometime after town meeting day.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

SIGN

B. Martin received approval from the Board for the design for a sign for the library and town offices. It should be ready in thirty days and can be installed when the ground is workable.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The town road grader went to get repaired for a cost of \$20,000. The grader is old and approaching the end of its life, but this alternative is much more cost effective than buying a new grader at this time.

B. Martin asked what the set-up is for Saturday's remote Town Information Meeting. Jane Lindholm is going to moderate. S. Pilcher is disappointed that Town Meeting is happening over Zoom again. He thinks there are some interesting things happening that would be well-suited to an in-person discussion.

Ben Doyle of VT Preservation Trust would like to talk to community members who would like to do a community funded enterprise as a possible way to resurrect a general store.

DETERMINE TIME/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7pm

J. McNerney moved to adjourn. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Jessica Demertt.