

Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 6th, 2022 7:00pm
Meeting via Zoom/Phone

Members Present: Ann Johnston Miller (Chair), Nancy Wilson (Vice-Chair), Debra Sprague (Treasurer), Jaime Schulte (Clerk)

Members Absent: Caroline Alves

Guests Present: Ivor Hughes (Monkton Planning Commission)

Ann called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Regular Business

- Reviewed Agenda
- July meeting will be on the 7th 7:00 PM
- August meeting will be on the 11th at 7:00 PM
- Approve Minutes from May 2nd, 2022.
 - **Debra moved to approve the minutes of May 2nd, 2022 as written. Ann seconded.** No additional discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**

Old and New Business

- Joint meeting with the Recreation Committee regarding Morse Park (7:10)
 - Agreed to resume work on a plan for the “non-recreational” areas of Morse Park after about a year where both committees were focused on other priorities.
 - Mowing of non-rec field areas will be done this season by Brian Barrows and Paul Low assured us that the instruction to only mow after August 15th has been clearly given.
 - Jaime asked what the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board expects from a Morse Park Management Plan. The existing plan is one page and describes recreational uses of the park only. He showed the easement, which indicates the first priority for the park is preserving habitats and the second is recreation. The plan should reflect both.
 - Next step is for the MCC to respond to the feedback given by Rec in the spring of 2021. Jaime will update the document and circulate it.
- Update on buckthorn removal presentation, June 18th, with Travis Hart / AVCC Tiny Grant
 - The Tiny Grant was approved! We will sort out the specifics of ordering two Uprooter tools for the community/Conservation Commission.
 - Notices have been posted on Facebook and FPF.
- Act 171 mapping coordination with the Planning Commission
 - Joined by Ivor Hughes from the Planning Commission. Ivor is interested in the ARPA fund request made by the Conservation Commission. He advises building the case for funding.
 - Ivor wanted a look at the maps the Conservation Commission prepared. Need to put maps in the Town Plan first and then adjust zoning. Reviewed the maps.
 - Need to find out how quickly a company could prepare a quote and timeline for an initial mapping of Act 171 forest blocks and connectivity. More detailed mapping of natural resources could happen on a slower timeline.
- ARPA funds for mapping - Upcoming Select Board meeting June 14th, 7 PM

- We will work with Ivor on the formal proposal for ARPA funds. This would not likely be ready for the Selectboard on 6/14.
- Will work to have a range of cost and timeframe for Act 171 maps for the Town Plan.
- Reminder - Jason Karakehian - rare fungus, June 22nd (10:30 AM) and 23rd
 - Jason will be visiting Monkton on the 22nd and 23rd in search of the rare fungus.
- Morse Park – parsnip pulling, outreach
 - First parsnip session would be on Tuesday June 21st at 7:30pm. Second will be on Thursday June 30th at 7:30pm. Ann will advertise the session.

Adjournment

- Jaime moved to adjourn. Nancy seconded. All were in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 09:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk