

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday July 26, 2022
(Approved 8/8/22)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:00 pm.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), Marikate Kelley, Paul Low, Bill Martin

Members absent: John McNerney

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Beverly Soychak, Diana Butler, Jill Dion, Susan Mahony

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

B. Martin moved to approve the minutes of the 7/12/22 selectboard meeting as written. Seconded by P. Low . All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

B. Martin moved to approve PR 20718 in the amount of \$12,284.32. Seconded by M. Kelley. All voted in favor.

B. Martin moved to approve AP 20722 in the amount of \$64,186.91. M. Kelley seconded. The vote passed 3-0-1. P. Low abstained.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

SMITH BEERS CEMETERY

The town-owned cemetery is in the middle of the Layn Farm. John Smith's brother Michael is buried there. He would like to put up a white vinyl fence and clean up the encroaching brush. S. Pilcher allowed the work to commence.

BEAVERS

B. Martin asked the road foreman to put in writing the process to deal with flooding on town roads. He read S. Lawrence's description.

B. Soychak would like to form a committee to solve Monkton's animal issues in a more humane way. The Monkton Pond beavers were handled by Skip Lisle and the beaver deceiver with help from Protectors of Wildlife. The cost of that project was \$3600. B. Soychak has checked with Skip and he feels that the beaver deceiver would be successful. She would like permission to try to work on the most problematic dam on Hollow Road. B. Martin asked if the beaver deceiver would frustrate the beavers and cause them to move to another site? B. Soychak answered that the beavers don't know it's there because they are not attracted to it; they follow the sound of running water. B. Soychak noted that when beavers are trapped they just come back. The cost of beaver deceivers is \$4000, and POW has offered \$1000 to start. S. Pilcher supports volunteer efforts. He said the problem is when the volunteers keep coming to the town asking for money. P. Low is in support, and intrigued to learn more about resolving the issue. P. Low thinks the alternative solution is building up Hollow Road by 5', very expensive. B. Martin said the most damaging beaver dam was on Church Road, and the road crew was going there every week and crawling in the culvert. D. Butler noted that it would be a great educational opportunity for the town and the surrounding towns. B. Soychak noted that Shelburne installed one in 2019 that had a lot of town support. B. Soychak also noted that Monkton provides a wildlife corridor. M. Kelley thanked B. Soychak for her efforts. B. Soychak will put a committee together.

BUDGET STATUS

S. Pilcher said at the next meeting the Select Board will be setting the tax rate based on what was approved at town meeting and the existing budget. There was discussion about the town's current expenses and revenues.

FACILITIES USE REQUESTS

P. Low said there is one event on 8/4, 5pm-8:30. There are two events on 8/27. P. Low will copy communications about the requests to the Select Board. S. Pilcher said when any members do any Select Board business, it should be copied to all the Select Board. B. Martin asked what is the process to keep track of keys? S. Gomez is keeping track of keys, and checking the room after use. S. Pilcher thanked P. Low for his work.

UPD REVIEW / SCHEDULE

S. Pilcher said the state is mailing out ballots to every voter in November. There is a deadline to get things on that ballot. Can the work be completed in August in time for a November vote? The decision was made to meet Monday, 8/8/22, at 7 PM in the Town Hall to review UPD. *[Note: this meeting may take place in the front room/Lister area, since the DRB is using the main meeting room.]*

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

no action taken

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

The Preservation Trust of Vermont has given a grant of \$250 with the Monkton Museum and Historical Society matching that amount to have someone come and take a look at the building's needs for renovation. S. Pilcher reached out to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission regarding grants. The Select Board members were concerned that it appears that no one has taken the reins to find a sustainable use for the old town hall, a project that has been in process since September 2021. There is a continued cost to the town. The Select Board will need to put the town hall before the voters again to see what is their pleasure, keep it or sell it.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

S. Pilcher would like to put together a proposal for accessory dwellings. He said that before the budget process, it would be good to have clarity on the ARPA funds process.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There will be a special meeting on Monday, August 8, 2022 at 7pm to discuss the UPD. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 7pm.

M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. All voted in favor.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.