

Town of Monkton
Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 5th, 2022, at 6:30pm
Zoom/Phone Meeting

Members Attending: Laura Farrell (Chair), Susan Mahony (Vice-Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), John Mejia (Digital Czar)

Members Absent: Whitney Leighton

Guests: None

Laura called the meeting to order at 6:36pm.

1) Approve minutes of 7th Sept 2022 meeting

- **Susan moved to consider the minutes of September 7th, 2022. Laura seconded.** There was no discussion. **Susan moved to accept the minutes of September 7th, 2022 as written. Laura seconded.** There was no additional discussion. **The vote was (3-0-1),** with John abstaining (not present at the last meeting).

2) Updates:

- ARPA mapping status
 - The Conservation Commission is completing evaluation of the six proposals received. Anticipating that a decision could be made at their 10/17 meeting.
- Farm list – review Whitney’s google form - postponed.
- 2019A Application - the project is moving forward again and may be completed this year.
- Open meeting law – how are we doing?
- UPD – Final hearing and decision?

3) Town Forest progress

- The Town Forest Committee is working with a landowner on a potential town forest parcel. The appraisal is underway. There are two other appraisal-related items that Monkton will need to fund to complete the process of valuation and determination of whether a deal is feasible for all parties. The Town Forest Committee has submitted an application to ANAC for support from the ANA Fund for these two items. The first item is some additional appraisal documentation, known as a “yellow book” appraisal, which is needed for some funding sources. That is quoted by the appraiser at \$1,250. The other item is a timber assessment of the parcel, which is quoted at \$2,100, to compare with the landowner’s timber assessment. ANAC approved, in August 2022, up to \$4,000 in support of appraisal-related costs for a town forest project, pending an application from the Town Forest Committee. The application is now in hand and it requests up to \$4,000 for these two items. The two estimates total only \$3,350, but this would provide some flexibility in case of any needed change in scope.
- **Laura moved to recommend to the Selectboard that up to \$4,000.00 from the ANA Fund be allocated for yellow book and timber appraisals on the potential town forest parcel. Susan seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**

4) Chris Ajello report

- Continuing review.

5) Linehan project (project 2022A)

- Discussed Vermont Land Trust's application for town support from the ANA Fund for a conservation easement at the Linehan farm. The request is for \$6,000 as part of the overall funding of the project. This is a relatively small request (less than 2% of the total project cost), but would demonstrate Monkton's support for conservation. In our review at the last ANAC meeting, and since, this parcel is clearly valuable working land with a sugarbush, vineyard, hay fields, and ecological value including core forests and east-west connectivity. Supporting this project and helping to keep these 92 acres as open working land seems to have a very clear value to Monkton, particularly for such a small funding request.
- **Jaime moved to recommend to the Selectboard the disbursement of \$6,000 from the ANA Fund to Vermont Land Trust to support their application pertaining to a conservation easement on the Linehan farm.** John seconded. There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**

6) Planning Commission Survey

- Discussed collaborating with the Planning Commission on a new town wide survey (most recent one was in 2016).

8) ANAC's role after projects are completed

- Raven Ridge: updates on parking & signs; Susan provided an update and photos.

9) Confirm date(s) and locations/zoom

- Tuesday, November 15th, 2022
- Wednesday, December 14th, 2022

10) Reviewed Minutes

Adjournment

John moved to adjourn. Susan seconded. All were in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk