

Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 5th, 2022 3:00pm
Meeting via Zoom/Phone

Members Present: Ann Johnston Miller (Chair), Nancy Wilson (Vice-Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Janet Schwarz

Members Absent: Debra Sprague (Treasurer), Caroline Alves

Guests Present: Aaron Worthley (Arrowwood Environmental), Michael Lew-Smith (Arrowwood Environmental), Ivor Hughes (Planning Commission)

Ann called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

There was no public comment.

We did not have a quorum of the Conservation Commission initially, until Janet Schwarz was able to join at 3:19pm, but had warned no votes. We also had Ivor Hughes, who is a voting member of the project team. We decided to record the meeting for transparency, and for the benefit of absent members, and proceeded to start the project kickoff discussion with Aaron and Michael from Arrowwood Environmental.

Project Kickoff Discussion

- This is an exciting milestone for Monkton and the project. Michael noted that this is also their favorite type of project, as it is oriented toward proactive conservation work. Everyone is looking forward to it.
- Discussed project task timeline, billing, and task completion. It would make sense to meet in February when most of the land cover mapping is done, there is a draft map of forest blocks, and natural communities mapping is getting started. The Conservation Commission would get a look at the current state of the work to gauge progress and task completion. We will handle payment by task, as noted in the contract. The project is cumulative in nature, so the initial stages will not have formal stand-alone deliverables, but we can gain sufficient visibility to understand when they are finished.
- Regarding ranking of forest blocks, we can discuss the criteria that will be used to rank at the February meeting. It should be evident by that point what factors will be meaningful and feasible to include.
- Staying in contact by email is good with any questions.
- Discussed the field work that is on the schedule for December and May. December may actually take place in January or early February, as it is intended to inform and check the land use/cover areas, etc. Step 1 is to map that using aerial imagery and such and then do some general verification with the visit.
- Discussed whether some Conservation Commission/Monkton participation would be helpful or not. Nancy mentioned that there are long-time residents who would be interested in sharing local knowledge of wildlife corridors and such. How might that be useful? It can help projects in some cases and engage the community as well. We will look to have an exercise, similar to the Values Mapping project a few years ago (online and physical mapping), managed by the Conservation Commission to gather the input of residents. This could be mentioned at Town Meeting and possibly started there. This will be a good way to engage the community during the project, rather than after it is finished.
- No additional questions at this time. We will stay in contact by email and look forward to the February meeting while preparing for the community engagement.
- Meeting recording:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yskuph4L3R47OxI8Og7MfRySTuic0-oJ/view?usp=sharing0>

Adjournment

- Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 3:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte, Clerk