

**Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 4th, 2023, at 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall
(Approved: January 26th, 2023)**

Members present: Jaime Schulte, Callie Brynn, John McNerney, Peter Dufault

Members absent: None

Guests: Louise Watson (Monkton resident), Barb and Walter Crandall (Monkton residents), Susan Davis and Larry Pike (Monkton residents), Georgia Wright, Paul Fournier (Hinesburg resident).

Callie called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

1. Public Comment

- a. The public was interested in updates on the committee's progress. An appraisal has been received on the "parcel of interest" and an option to purchase is being drafted by Vermont Land Trust for consideration by the parties. There is not yet an agreement to proceed or not proceed. If an agreement is reached we would be able to begin engaging with the community about the project while working to obtain necessary funding over the next several months.
- b. Discussed what uses a town forest might allow/support. That would be the result of engaging with the community to gather and understand Monkton's priorities for a community forest, what uses are compatible with the areas of land in the eventual parcel, and the requirements and expectations of easement holders and funders, etc.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. **John moved to approve the minutes of December 1st, 2022 as written. Jaime seconded. No additional discussion. All were in favor (4-0-0).**
- b. **Jaime moved to approve the minutes of October 18th and November 2nd, 2022 as written. John seconded. No additional discussion. All were in favor (4-0-0).**

3. Executive Session regarding parcel of interest appraisal

- a. **John moved to enter an Executive Session to discuss a potential real estate transaction. Jaime seconded. All were in favor (4-0-0).** Entered the Executive Session at 8:13pm.
- b. John moved to leave the Executive Session at 8:44pm. Jaime seconded. All were in favor (4-0-0).

4. 2022 Committee Report - discussed the committee report for the annual Monkton Town Report. Callie and Jaime will work on the report and we will meet briefly to approve it next week.

5. 2023 Town Meeting - will continue to consider a table at Town Meeting and topics to discuss.

6. Annual Budget

- a. Need enough for a town-wide mailing and to hold session(s) to engage community input. John to ask what a town-wide postcard mailing would cost.

- b. **Jaime moved to authorize the Chair or John McNerney to put in a budget request on behalf of the town forest committee once costs of a town-wide mailing is determined. John seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**
- 7. Community Outreach - discussed approach once we have an agreement and are able to communicate about the project.
- 8. Grants/fundraising
 - a. Still waiting for the federal Community Forest Grant application to open.
- 9. Next meeting(s)
 - a. Wednesday, January 11th, 5:15pm-5:45pm to approve the committee report.
 - b. Thursday, January 19th, 7:00pm
 - c. Thursday, February 16th, 7:00pm

Adjournment

Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 9:50pm.

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.