

Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 20th, 2023 7:00pm
Meeting via Zoom/Phone

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

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Kesta Osborne, Sue Stasny

Ann called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1) Public Comment

- a) There was no public comment.

2) Regular Business

- a) Reviewed the Agenda
- b) Next Meetings:
 - (1) Monday, April 17th, 7:00pm, we will try to meet in-person in the Library.
 - (2) Monday, May 15th, 7:00pm
- c) Approve Minutes from February 20th and 27th
 - (1) **Debra moved to accept the minutes of February 20th, 2023 as written. Nancy seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (5-0-0) in favor.**
 - (2) **Nancy moved to accept the minutes of February 27th, 2023 1:00pm as written. Ann seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (5-0-0) in favor.**
 - (3) **Jaime moved to accept the minutes of February 27th, 2023 6:30pm as written. Nancy seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (5-0-0) in favor.**

3) Guest Introduction

- a) The committee members briefly introduced themselves.
- b) Sue Stasny - interested in regenerative practices and in joining the Conservation Commission. Looking forward to the work of the commission.
- c) Kesta Osborne - Monktonite for 35 years. Retired recently and has more time now. Would like to join the Conservation Commission.
- d) We explained the process for reaching out to the Selectboard to express interest in joining.

4) Support for the Town Forest project

- a) Jaime provided a brief overview of the project for Kesta and Sue. The Commission discussed the project and that the Town Forest Committee invited us to send a letter of support for the project to include with the upcoming grant applications. Reviewed a draft letter which was prepared ahead of tonight's meeting.
- b) **Nancy moved to endorse the proposed Monkton Town Forest project as presented by the Town Forest Committee to the community and approve the letter of support for it from the Conservation Commission. Debra seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (5-0-0) in favor.**

5) Discussion of a pollinator garden in Morse Park

- a) Be The Change is looking to plant pollinator gardens in every town in Vermont (at no cost to the town). The idea of a pollinator garden in Morse Park was mentioned to two of the Recreation Committee members recently and they seemed supportive. Nancy will follow up and contact the Rec Committee to discuss.

6) Update on the Morse Park Management Plan - meeting with Rec

- a) Discussed the history of the Morse Park Management Plan project and the recent working session meeting between members of MCC and the Rec Committee. Jaime is working on a revision to the document based on our discussion and notes and will send that back to the working group.
- b) Recreation asked Conservation to describe our preferred management priority/focus for the field areas, as the potential priorities could be conflicting. Discussed that question and our priority for the field areas would be management for grassland birds, with pollinators as a compatible secondary focus (smaller edge areas mainly). This priority aligns with the existing agreement not to mow/brush hog the fields between May 15th and August 15.

7) Monkton sightings map, promotion

- a) Large easel-size map was obtained and was used at Town Meeting for the purpose of community members marking known wildlife crossings in town. This information will be combined with other sources to build our understanding of where active wildlife crossings are located in Monkton. The map is currently at the Town Hall. We will close out the paper map by about the end of April and transfer those sightings to the online Arrowwood map. Ann will follow up with Arrowwood to discuss that and our next project meeting.

Adjournment

- Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 8:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte
Clerk