

**Monkton Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, 12th April 2023**

**6:30 pm**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

(Approved: TBD)

**Members Attending:** Laura Farrell (Chair), Susan Mahony (Vice Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), John Mejia (Digital Czar), Steve Parren (Alternate)

**Members Absent:** Whitney Leighton

**Guests:** Debbie Houghton (Monkton resident)

- 1) **Call to Order** - Laura called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.
- 2) **Approve minutes of 8 Feb and 22 March 2023 meetings, uploaded to this link:**  
<http://monktonvt.com/boards-and-committees/anac/anac-minutes/>
  - **John moved to accept the minutes of February 8th, 2023 as written. Laura seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (3-0-0).** Susan was rejoining the meeting at the time.
  - **John moved to accept the minutes of March 22nd, 2023 as written. Laura seconded.** There was no further discussion?. **The vote was (3-0-0).** Susan was rejoining the meeting at the time.
  - Updated final minutes need posting from Nov on (maybe farther back)
    - o Jaime has inventoried this and will resolve
- 3) **Updates:**
  - ARPA mapping status - Jaime updated that the project is on track
  - End at 8:15 or earlier *reminder*
  - Open meeting law – how are we doing? Doing well at this point. No concerns.
  - Chris Ajello report - we can release the report without the spreadsheet detail
  - Meeting in person - we may do hybrid meetings and some in-person going forward.
- 4) **Welcome Steve Parren, meet Debbie Houghton and introduce ANAC**
  - Introductions, welcomed Steve to the committee, discussed the committee with Debbie.
- 5) **Raven Ridge: parking, bobcat closure, conservation & rec**
  - Susan and Laura will reach out to The Nature Conservancy about people and dogs not remaining out of the closed area (closed due to bobcat denning).
- 6) **Town Forest progress**
  - The Town Forest Committee has submitted applications to the federal Community Forest and Open Space Program and to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the bulk of the project funding. We should hear whether the applications are approved by mid-summer. By that time the Monkton portion of the funds (about 17%) will come into focus and a decision would need to be made

on how to proceed. The assumption is that a majority of the town portion would come from ARPA funds and a portion from the ANA Fund. It has been suggested that ARPA might be \$150k and ANA be \$35k. It should be noted that there are some anticipated legal fees that might add an additional \$10k to the application for ANA Funds.

- Who should the application to ANAC come from in this case? Vermont Land Trust would make the most sense.
- Is there a restriction on how ANA Funds can be used in the project budget? Needs further discussion, but the likely request seems to fit into the scope of the ANA Fund.
- Closing on a Monkton Town Forest would be anticipated in the first half of 2024.

**7) Planning for Brian Morgan and aggregate forest projects**

- Brian Morgan acquired the former Charlie Weisenbach property, which will be conserved.
- There are other interested neighbors. It would be helpful to assemble a checklist of steps for such projects.

**8) Close and Linehan Project closings – updates and planning**

- The Close project closed last week!
  - We considered, with Debbie, when to have a celebration of the project. Probably mid-May or later.
- The Linehan project is closing on April 19th.

**9) Confirm date(s) and locations/zoom**

- Thursday, May 11th, 2023, 6:30pm, hybrid meeting at Town Hall
- Thursday, June 15th, 2023, 6:30pm, hybrid meeting at Town Hall

**10) Reviewed Minutes**

**11) Adjournment** - Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 8:18pm.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Jaime Schulte, Clerk**