

**Town of Monkton**  
**Town Forest Committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, April 26th, 2023, at 7:00pm**  
**Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom**  
(Approved: May 16th, 2023)

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

Members absent: None

Guests: Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust), Jessica Demeritt (Monkton resident), Evva Dicovitsky (Monkton resident), CJ Buzzy (Monkton resident)

**Call To Order** - Callie called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1. Public Comment (10 minutes)
2. Review minutes 4/5/23
  - a. **Callie moved to approve the minutes of April 5th, 2023 as written. Jaime seconded.** There was no additional discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**
3. Committee organization/members
  - a. Discussed that a Vice Chair would be good with Callie's upcoming leave of absence during the summer and that an alternate position would be helpful to make quorums. John will also be away for 3 weeks in July/August. Jaime indicated being willing to be Vice Chair.
  - b. **John moved to nominate Jaime as Vice Chair of the Town Forest Committee. Pete seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**
  - c. Candidates for the open position on the committee would appear to be Molly Parren and CJ Buzzy. We previously met with Molly and today asked CJ to comment on his interests and the committee. He shared that he is excited to join the committee during a formative time for the project. He has a background in agriculture, land use planning, mapping, and enjoys visiting other town forests (Hinesburg, as an example). Can't have all uses in one place at one time, so it is about balancing uses and addressing the most interests in a fair way. CJ likes the challenge of figuring out how to balance all of these things.
  - d. **Jaime moved to recommend to the Selectboard that they appoint Molly Parren to the open position on the Town Forest Committee and that they also create a new Alternate position and appoint CJ Buzzy to it. John seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**
4. Community site walk recap (4/15 & 4/19)
  - a. Have had two site walks with about 16 participants. Some great conversations were had. We will continue to set up walks as interest indicates, with the next one on Sunday, May 21st, 1:00pm. Email [townforest@monktonvt.com](mailto:townforest@monktonvt.com) if interested in that session or another time.

5. Community input/engagement
  - a. How do we engage more residents?
  - b. Tabling at the Recycling Center (starting 5/13) and the Strawberry Festival.
  - c. Jaime will ask Ian about a short-link to the page.
  - d. We can improve visibility on the homepage.
  - e. Continuing to post online regularly. Consider a mailing or in-person vote at Town Hall (but not both).
  - f. Jaime will ask Jane Lindholm for advice on community outreach and about her interest in doing a piece to raise awareness or otherwise explore the project.
  - g. Is the Frequently Asked Questions document ready to add to the webpage? Yes.
6. Title report
  - a. Should have this available in the next week or so. Should have a meeting between the VLT and Monkton attorneys to discuss. John will follow up with the Selectboard and work on getting this on their agenda for the next meeting.
7. Access/maintenance
  - a. Callie, Jaime, and Bob met with Shane Lawrence (road foreman) and Paul Low (Selectboard) onsite about potential parking locations and what would be needed for updates to potential parking locations. Also discussed what might be feasible for the town's participation in Old Airport Rd. maintenance. Shane will do some estimates to help the committee and understand options. Jaime and Callie will continue working with Shane, possibly having some information ahead of the next Selectboard meeting on May 9th.
  - b. Once the title report and attorney meetings are complete it would make sense to meet with A. Johnson to discuss items such as the Bowman right of way, etc.
  - c. Met with Zapata Courage and Krystal Sewell, District Wetlands Ecologists with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, on April 25th at the "fire pond" on Hardscrabble Rd. to assess wetland boundaries. Some of the immediate area on the west side of Hardscrabble is not wetland and would be usable for the purpose of a parking pullout. They recommended that we check in with the state archaeologist before creating any parking areas.
8. Field assessment
  - a. Need to gather data to inform the management plan. Some field naturalist projects could happen this year (inventory) and others next year. Some projects would need a small budget.
  - b. Vermont Land Trust representatives visited on April 19th and confirmed three vernal pools and re-confirmed a 4th!
9. ANAC application
  - a. Bob has a draft of the application to ANAC, which will be finished and submitted next week ahead of the next ANAC meeting on May 11th. We are scheduled for approximately 7:30pm.
10. VHCB Board Meeting
  - a. The board meeting will be on May 16th.

11. Set next meeting date

- a. Tuesday, May 16th, 7:00pm (postponing the previously scheduled April 20th meeting).
- b. Wednesday, June 14th, 7:00pm

**Adjournment** - Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 9:23pm.

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.