

**Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 5th, 2023, at 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom
(Approved: 4/26/2023)**

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

Members absent: John McNerney

Guests: Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust), Molly Parren (Monkton resident), Chelsea Jipner (Monkton resident)

Call To Order - Callie called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

1. Public Comment (10 minutes)

- a. Chelsea is a resident of Old Airport Rd., adjacent to the proposed Monkton Town Forest parcel, and is interested in the project, plan for road maintenance, and such. Joining the meeting to learn more.

2. Review minutes 3/21/23

- a. **Jaime moved to approve the minutes of March 21st, 2023 as written. Callie seconded.** There was no additional discussion. **All were in favor (3-0-0).**

3. Site walk recap

- a. On February 22, Callie Brynn and Jaime Schulte took two members of the Selectboard on a site walk at the proposed MTF parcel, Stephen Pilcher and Walter Crandall, along with Bob Heiser of Vermont Land Trust.
- b. On March 27th representatives from Vermont Housing and Conservation Board went on a site walk at the parcel with Callie, John McNerney, and Bob Heiser.
- c. On March 29th Neil Bungard from the Community Forest and Open Space Program went on a site walk at the parcel with Callie, Jaime, and Bob.

4. Prep for 4/11 Selectboard meeting

- a. Discussed topics to review with the Selectboard, including progress on understanding road maintenance, how to gather voter input, ARPA funds, etc.

5. Community input/engagement

- a. Have held two info sessions, posted on the website, FPF, etc.
- b. We would like to begin holding site walks for the public, but will need to manage the number of people per-walk due to currently available parking.
 - i. An initial pair of walks to be held on Saturday 4/15 at 10am and Wednesday 4/19 at 5:30pm. We will announce them on Front Porch Forum and the community Facebook page, in addition to the town website.
- c. We should request to meet with the board of The Watershed Center to discuss future collaboration and alignment.

6. FAQ

- a. It would be good to add common questions and answers to the website ASAP. There is a draft started. Jaime and Callie to work with Bob on a version 1 of the FAQ to post to the town website.
- b. It would be good to create a version of the map that makes it easier to see what is included in the parcel and which removes internal lot lines to more easily visualize.

7. Access

- a. Discussed Old Airport Road road maintenance. Need to ask the road foreman to visit and give guidance on what would be feasible along Hardscrabble and Airport for parking.

8. Committee members

- a. Talked with Molly Parren, who is interested in joining the committee. Discussed her expertise and degrees in conservation biology and wildlife biology. She grew up in Monkton and has returned after time working around the country. Molly is interested in this project as an example of bringing science and conservation together with what works for the community.
- b. We will add an Organizational Meeting agenda item to our next meeting to consider the election of a Vice Chair and also hopefully to welcome a 5th committee member, if the Selectboard has appointed someone.

9. Grant applications

- a. Applications were submitted within deadlines to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the federal Community Forest and Open Space Program. We can now turn more toward community engagement.

10. Set next meeting date

- a. Wednesday, April 26th, 7:00pm (postponing the previously scheduled April 20th meeting).

Adjournment - Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (3-0-0). Adjourned at 8:33pm.

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.