

Monkton Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 11th May 2023

6:30 pm

Hybrid meeting at Town Hall and via Zoom

(Approved: TBD)

Members Attending: Laura Farrell (Chair), Susan Mahony (Vice Chair), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Whitney Leighton, Steve Parren (Alternate)

Members Absent: John Mejia (Digital Czar)

Guests: Debbie Houghton (Monkton resident), Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust), Callie Brynn (Town Forest Committee Chair), John McNerney (Town Forest Committee)

1) **Call to Order** - Laura called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2) **Approve minutes of the April 12th meeting:**

- **Laura moved to accept the minutes of April 12th, 2023 as written. Susan seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (5-0-0).**
- Updated final minutes need posting from Nov on (maybe farther back)
 - o Jaime has inventoried this and will resolve

3) **Updates:**

- ARPA mapping status - project is coming along well and is largely on-track
- End at 8:15 or earlier *reminder*
- Open meeting law – how are we doing? No concerns.
- Chris Ajello report - Laura to resend for the committee to review. Jaime to add it to the website once we have at least one more person review it.
- Raven Ridge: parking, bobcat closure, conservation & rec - Susan has prepared a note for The Nature Conservancy regarding some people going into the closed areas. Some may have come from the north (no signs) rather than south.

4) **Organizational meeting** – Committee roles, who is able to do which ones

- a) Roles: Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk, Tech and media, Alternate
- b) There was some discussion. Jaime would like to take a step back, handing off the Clerk role and potentially swapping to one of the Alternate positions. Whitney is willing to pick up the Clerk role. After some discussion Laura and Susan were willing to stay in their roles and Whitney is willing to take on the Clerk role. We will defer the question of Alternates and the Technical/Media role that John has held.
- c) **Jaime moved to nominate Laura Farrell as Chair, Susan Mahony as Vice Chair, and Whitney Leighton as Clerk.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (5-0-0).**

5) **Town Forest Application (Bob Heiser, Callie Brynn, Jaime Schulte)**

- a) Bob Heiser and Callie Brynn provided an overview of the application and took questions with John and Jaime. The committee asked about the timeframe in which a decision is needed, which would preferably happen before July. There

was discussion of uses, sensitive ecological areas, neighboring and similar properties (The Watershed Center, other towns' forests, etc.).

- b) The committee would like to go on a site visit to see the property before taking a vote on the application. We will look to schedule that in the next two weeks and then proceed to a decision at our next meeting.

6) Planning for Brian Morgan and aggregate forest projects

- a) Discussed next steps.

7) Linehan and Close Party planning – 2 closed projects in April!

- a) Will coordinate a weekend date in June - we'll work with Peter and Debbie on what would be fun and suitable from their perspective.
- b) Will coordinate with the Linehans on what would work for them.

8) Confirm date(s) and locations/zoom

- a) Thursday, June 1st, 2023, 5:00pm, site walk at the Monkton Town Forest in preparation for considering an application from the Vermont Land Trust related to the Town Forest project.
- b) Thursday, June 15th, 2023, 6:30pm, hybrid meeting at Town Hall
- c) Thursday, July 20th, 2023, 6:30pm, hybrid meeting at Town Hall

9) Adjournment - Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 8:55pm.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Schulte, Clerk**