

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023
(Approved 5/23/23)

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:00 pm.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), John McNerney (arrived during overweight permits), Paul Low, Walter Crandall, Marikate Kelley

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Tom Steadman, Beverly Soychak, Sam Peisch, Heidi Sulis, Molly Parren, Mike Winslow, Alix O'Meara, Jessica Danyow, Alaina Bandanza, CJ Buzzy, Dawn Vukas, Jamie Schulte, Jane Palmer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

S. Pilcher said the Dog Park is having a party on Saturday from 3-5. He said R. Hopps reported that Green Up Day went very well. He noted the Monkton Fire Station is having an open house from 9-1 on Saturday.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

P. Low moved to approve the minutes of April 11, 2023 as written. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

P. Low moved to approve the minutes of April 25, 2023. W. Crandall seconded. The vote passed 3-0-1. S. Pilcher abstained.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

M. Kelley moved to approve PR 30508 in the amount of \$11,230.88. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor

M. Kelley moved to approve AP 30508 \$17,047.43. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

The following overweight permits were reviewed and approved:

Bradfor's Trucking Inc.

Mitchell Excavating

All Star Fuel LLC

Curtis Lumber Co. Inc.

FACILITY USE REQUEST

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMUNITY CATS

B. Soychak said she has been working with H. Nikolay, a wildlife rehabilitator. Beginning on April 17, cats began showing up in Morse Park in large numbers. Thirty-four cats have been trapped and are receiving care with two known cats still at large. There is an investigation being conducted by Vermont Fish and Wildlife. All the cats will have been vetted after next week. North Country Animal League and VT-Can have been providing support. B. Soychak discussed the difficulties of getting assistance for the abandoned cats without any town authority. She said some residents are working together to form a volunteer emergency response team. She noted the current Animal Control Officer position only works with dogs and suggested that could change. J. Danyow, of Homeward Bound, strongly recommended the ACO needed to include cats because they get abandoned and cause conflicts with neighbors. She apologized for suggesting there was a feral cat colony in Morse Park. She noted that there was a great deal of confusion because of multiple people reaching out regarding cats. She explained some of the programs Homeward Bound offers for cats including Spay the Mom. S. Pilcher asked about VTCan. B. Soychak explained that it is a spay and neuter clinic in Waitsfield. D. Vukas also asked if the ACO could include working with stray cats. She expressed concern that members of the community had to step in. S. Pilcher congratulated the community for the work they have done to try to solve the problem. He said the Selectboard was not ready to add cats to the ordinance at this time. He suggested proceeding on forming the volunteer group and informing the ACO when the group is formed so they can reach out for help. J. Palmer noted numerous abandoned cats were not a common occurrence for Monkton, and in the past the community has stepped in. She said future occurrences will hopefully be more easily handled.

OPEN DOOR CLINIC REQUEST FOR ARPA FUNDS

H. Sulis is the director of the Open Door Clinic. They purchased a new van last fall to provide mobile service. They had been promised a grant to cover the costs that was later denied due to technicalities. She has worked on all the costs involved and has gotten the cost down to \$10,000 from \$153,000. There was discussion about how many Monkton residents use the service, and how many may have access to service in the future. About 1100 people currently use the service in Addison County. **M. Kelly moved to dedicate \$3000 ARPA funds to the open door clinic subject to the clinic obtaining full funding through other towns. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.**

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AGREEMENT

M. Kelley moved to approve the ACRPC mutual aid agreement for the public works departments of its member municipalities. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

AUDITORS

S. Pilcher suggested that R. Charbonneau should be using his town email account and not his personal email for Auditor-related business. There was discussion about the issues of using a personal email because of the public records act and inquiries: it could subject an individual's personal email account to searches stemming from public records requests. R. Charbonneau has been attempting to follow changes in Delinquent Taxes and needs access to town records. S. Pilcher said there are different modules in NEMRC. W. Crandall asked about NEMRC offering a module for delinquent taxes. There was discussion about read-only access and whether a private citizen should have read-only access to various NEMRC system modules. There was agreement that auditors should have access. S. Pilcher said he felt the most complete information could be accessed by that process. There was discussion about process and clarity. The Selectboard expressed a need for a clear request from the auditors that contained a clear request for data.

TOWN OFFICE LANDSCAPING QUOTE

The Selectboard has received one quote and will be seeking another.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

There was discussion about the sander that was damaged last year. There was discussion about the dump truck the voters approved purchasing and how to pay for it. **M. Kelley moved to have the town treasurer obtain a five year loan up to \$240,000 with a favorable interest rate. J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

LIQUOR LICENSE

M. Kelley moved to approve the liquor license for the Yates Family Orchard, P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL AREAS COMMITTEE BUDGET REDUCTION

S. Wilbur said there was a budget change for the P. Close conservation easement that reduced the town's payment. S. Pilcher signed the paperwork.

VAUGHNS MOBILE HOME PARK

A. O'Meara, of Addison County Community Trust, described a parking issue related to work to be done at the mobile home park. Water lines are being replaced in the park. There is a need to park the resident's cars (10-12) outside of the park while work is done. The work may take up to two weeks. The suggestion was to use traffic lights and reduce the two lane road to a one lane road during that time. Then the resident's cars could be parked in the closed lane. P. Low said the road foreman was not in favor because of safety concerns.

J. McNerney asked if the cars could be parked further from the park in a safer area. P. Low expressed concerns about liability to the town if residents got injured. W. Crandall asked about the layout of the water lines. He asked if the work could be done in sections. A. O'Meara said it would increase the project cost too much. A. O'Meara said she appreciated the time of the Selectboard. S. Pilcher said he would reach out to the town's insurance agent regarding potential town liability if the road is used for parking.

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS
no action taken

APPOINTMENTS

M. Kelley moved to appoint M. Parren to the open position on the Town Forest Committee, and to appoint CJ Buzzy for the alternate position. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

M. Kelly moved to appoint M. Boltz-Robinson to a 4 year term to the DRB for a term expiring 3/27. W. Crandall seconded. All voted in favor.

BEAVERS

P. Low said there has been progress with a resident who agreed to allow Skip Lisle to propose a solution to a roadside beaver dam.

NATIVE PLANT TRUST SURVEY

A. Bandanza said that a botanist would like to survey for Lamb's Head Lady's Slipper on town owned parcels. **M. Kelley moved to allow the botanist access to Monkton parcels for the survey. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.**

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON
no action taken

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS
no action taken

OTHER BUSINESS:

S. Pilcher said a member of the road crew is asking to bring his fiance onto his health insurance. P. Low said the Selectboard should accommodate the road crew to the best of their ability.

S. Pilcher suggested using a password manager for shared access to some passwords. Steps have been taken to make sure members of the Selectboard can access passwords for running a Zoom meeting.

T. Steadman was following up on appointments for the delinquent tax collector and treasurer. J. McNerney cleared up that appointments had been made for both positions.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

none required

M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28pm. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Demeritt.