

Monkton Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 15th June 2023

6:30 pm

Hybrid meeting at Town Hall and via Zoom

(Approved: TBD)

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

Members Absent: John Mejia (Digital Czar)

Guests: John McNerney (Resident, Town Forest Committee, Selectboard)

(Susan joined the meeting at 7:30pm)

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

John joined the meeting to register a public comment on the Monkton Town Forest proposal as a resident, not as a member of the Town Forest Committee or the Selectboard. John explained why he thought that if Monkton is going to have a Town Forest this parcel would be one of the best we could find in Monkton.

Although ANAC has not usually had a Public Comment item on our agendas it is our custom, and the expectation of open meetings, to entertain a reasonable amount of public comment if someone joins a meeting.

2) **Approve minutes of May 11th meeting and June 1st meeting.**

- **Laura moved to approve the May 11th meeting minutes and Whitney seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The minutes were approved unanimously (5-0-0).**
- **Debbie moved to approve the minutes from the June 1st meeting and Steve seconded.** There was no further discussion. **Minutes were approved (4-0-1) with Whitney abstaining as she was not present.**

3) **Updates:**

- Jaime provided a brief update on the ARPA mapping status.
- Laura reminded the committee that it is on track to end at 8:15pm
- Open meeting law: Jaime reviewed state policies for posting open meeting minutes and confirmed that we are complying. No concerns.
- Chris Ajello report – Steve reviewed the Chris Ajello report and shared his proposed changes with the committee for their consideration. **Jaime made a motion to amend the report adopting the 2 changes Steve proposed with posting to the website and include a synopsis on why the work was completed, and its objectives. Debbie seconded the motion.** There was no further discussion. **The motion was approved unanimously (5-0-0)**
- Raven Ridge: Susan was absent at this time, so the update was postponed until the next meeting.

4) **Organizational Meeting** - Committee roles, Alternates, Titles.

- Some of the members were absent so the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- Whitney prefers the title Clerk.

5) **Potential Town Forest Application (Project 2023A)**

- The committee reviewed the Site Visit Report for Proposed Monkton Town Forest. There was a brief discussion. Some changes were made to the report language.
- **Steve made a motion to accept the report as amended. Debbie seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The motion was passed unanimously (5-0-0).**
- Susan joined the meeting at this time (7:30pm)
- Discussion of ANA Funds for project 2023. Jaime stated that this project offers more to the public than a typical project on two fronts: conserving a variety of lands and the largest potential public access land.
- **Whitney made a motion to approve the Vermont Land Trust's application (Project 2023A) as written, and to request a public version suitable for submitting to the Selectboard (with the rare species information redacted, as they requested) for public review. Susan seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The motion was passed unanimously (6-0-0).**
- **Laura made a motion that we recommend to the Selectboard that up to \$45,000 be disbursed from the ANA fund in support of project 2023A, Monkton Town Forest application received from Vermont Land Trust on April 28th 2023, payable in one lump sum at closing. Susan seconded the motion.** There was no further discussion. **The motion was passed unanimously (6-0-0)**
- The committee collaborated on an email to the Selectboard making the above recommendations.

6) **Linehan and Close Party Planning**

- Will coordinate a weeknight or weekend in July. We'll work with Peter and Debbie on what would be fun and suitable from their perspective.
- Whitney will reach out to Linehans on what would work for them.

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

- July 20th @ 6:30pm, hybrid meeting at Town Hall
- August and September: Scheduling postponed.

8) **Adjournment**

- **Jaime made a motion to adjourn.** There was no discussion. **The motion was approved unanimously (6-0-0).**

Respectfully Submitted,
Whitney Leighton