

**Town of Monkton  
Town Forest Committee  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 24th, 2024, 5:30pm  
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom  
(Approved: February 6th, 2024)**

Members present: Callie Brynn (Chair), Jaime Schulte (Vice-Chair), John McNerney, Pete Dufault, Molly Parren, CJ Buzzy (Alternate)

Members absent: None

Guests: Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust), Denise Dalton, Louise Watson, Stephen Pilcher, Walter Crandall, Susan Davis

**Call To Order** - Callie called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

1. Review Agenda - no changes
2. Review of past minutes
  - a. John moved to approve the minutes of November 8th, 2023 as written. Callie seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor (5-0-0).
  - b. Jaime moved to approve the minutes of December 6th, 2023 as written. John seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor (5-0-0).
  - c. John moved to approve the minutes of January 10th, 2024 as written. Molly seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor (5-0-0).
3. Grant/funding updates
  - a. Fundraising for the last \$50,000 of the overall project budget is going well, with about \$14,000 remaining to raise. The next step is a more general mailing to the community to invite general participation.
4. Public Comment (up to 15 minutes) - no public comment offered
5. Old Airport Road (OAR) maintenance and access
  - a. There was a general discussion, with some residents of Old Airport Rd., about the future of the roadway. It should be noted that Walter Crandall has recused himself from the topic, for purposes of the Selectboard, and was participating as a resident. The committee noted that the road is a convenient point of access for visitors to the future Monkton Town Forest's western side. Jaime and John stated that the existing A. Johnson access easement, which would transfer to the Town at closing, is believed, by the committee and town attorney, to allow for the relatively moderate degree of use expected by the public accessing town forest land via OAR. That said, the committee would like to find an approach that is best for all parties. Residents expressed concern about the additional liability of the public traveling on the private roadway they maintain and would like to see it become a Class 4 road maintained by the town. The topic was discussed at some length. The committee was interested in the benefits to the Town of the road

becoming Class 4, but noted that full maintenance by the town may not be consistent with the somewhat limited change to the use of the road expected from a Town Forest. The current estimate is that about half of the traffic on the road would be private in nature and the other half related to the Town Forest. The possibility of dividing up maintenance by tasks such as grading or plowing, rather than by percentage of cost, was considered. There was general agreement that we all want to find a good solution that supports the needs of the residents and the project and will continue to discuss.

6. UVM Landscape Inventory & Assessment class needs assessment
  - a. Discussed availability to meet with the class on Monday and Wednesday next week. John and Molly will meet the class at the parcel on Monday afternoon. The committee will meet with the class on Wednesday.
7. Interim Management Plan - planning & community engagement timeline - postponed to next meeting.
8. Other project updates & timeline review - none at this time
9. Set next meeting date(s)
  - a. Wednesday, January 31st, time TBD, with UVM class for their Needs Assessment
  - b. Tuesday, February 6th, 5:30 - regular meeting

**Adjournment** - Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 7:58pm.

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.