

**Town of Monkton**  
**Town Forest Committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, May 1st, 2024, 5:30pm**  
**Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom**  
**(Approved: TBD)**

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

Committee members absent: None

Guests: Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust)

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

1. Reviewed Agenda - added mention of some posted signs seen on the western end of the parcel that may be misplaced.
2. Public Comment (up to 15 minutes) - no public present
3. Welcomed new committee member, Jessica Demeritt!
4. UVM Course: May 8th Presentation Prep
  - a. The class final presentation will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> with a walk on the property from 3 to 5pm, followed by a presentation from 7 to 8:30pm at Town Hall & on Zoom.
  - b. Discussed possible carpooling to the land and bringing in dinner for the UVM crew between the walk and presentation.
5. Management Plan
  - a. Interim - review
    - i. The purpose of the interim plan is to be a guidance document for the management of the Town Forest until the long-term management plan has been completed (within 4 months after closing on the property). This will be a placeholder as the committee works with the community on the long-term management plan.
    - ii. Reviewed the latest draft of the Interim Management Plan as a committee
      1. Some notes: should include an indicator that the current draft is a draft and add page numbers. Made some edits as we went through.
    - iii. CJ, Jessica, & Pete will work on the next draft. After our next meeting we will run it by the Selectboard for their initial feedback.
  - b. Formal/long-term management plan - community engagement timeline/events
    - i. Considering a mailing to the community to increase awareness.
    - ii. Next Steps:
      1. Research other town forest surveys
      2. Develop survey questions - Molly will collect input from MTFC
      3. Determine how to do the mailing/survey to the community

4. Kickoff meeting after the survey goes out - maybe best to do this in September after the summer?
5. Schedule dates for special topic meetings, such as:
  - a. Opening celebration of what the town forest can be, kickoff of what the management plan is all about, education on conservation easement, etc.
  - b. Schedule topic meetings on things like snowmobiles, horseback riding, hunting/trapping, bikes, dogs, etc.
6. Other updates & project timeline review
  - a. Fundraising - this is going very well. We are beyond the minimum necessary to complete the project budget (\$50k, of which \$30k is intended for the Management Fund). We are now \$9k over this \$50k minimum, although there are also some smaller costs incurred along the way to consider. Overall we are in good shape and continuing to accept donations in support of the Management Fund and making it as robust as possible.
  - b. Old Airport Road - the Selectboard has completed the hearing on Class IV status for OAR, but has not yet deliberated or made a decision.
  - c. Barnum ROW - we are in conversation with A. Johnson and Donna Barnum regarding the proposed forestry ROW and the kaolin dam.
  - d. Federal Grant requirements for closing - Bob and Jaime met with the Community Forest Program to give an update. We are in good shape in terms of the needed paperwork and timelines.
  - e. Title work - in conversation with A. Johnson, etc., to resolve.
  - f. Posted signs. Looking into some posted signs on the western part of the parcel that appear to be misplaced.
7. Review 3/14/24, 4/3/24, & 4/22/24 minutes
  - a. Jaime moved to approve the minutes of 3/14/2024 as written. Molly seconded. There was no further discussion. So moved (6-0-1), with Jessica abstaining (not a committee member at that meeting).
  - b. Molly moved to approve the minutes of 4/3/2024 as written. CJ seconded. There was no further discussion. So moved (5-0-2) with Jaime abstaining (not present) and Jessica abstaining (not a member of the committee at that meeting).
  - c. Jaime moved to approve the minutes of 4/22/2024 as written. CJ seconded. There was no further discussion. So moved (5-0-2), with Pete abstaining (not present) and Jessica abstaining (not a member of the committee at that meeting).
8. Set next meeting date(s)
  - a. Wednesday, May 29th, 2024 at 5:30pm.

**Adjournment:** Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (7-0-0). Adjourned at 7:30pm

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.