

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 29th, 2024, 5:30pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom
(Approved: TBD)

Members present: Callie Brynn (Chair), Jaime Schulte (Vice-Chair), John McNerney, Molly Parren, CJ Buzzy, Jessica Demeritt, Peter Dufault (joined at 5:51pm)

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 - no changes
2. Public Comment (up to 15 minutes) - no public present
3. Review 5/1/24 minutes
 - a. **John moved to approve the minutes of 5/1/2024 as written. Jessica seconded.** There was no further discussion. **So moved (6-0-0)**, with Pete not having yet joined the meeting.
 - b. Jaime will create minutes for the 5/8 site visit and UVM presentation.
4. Management Plan
 - a. Interim Plan
 - i. Discussed the approach to the interim plan, which is a placeholder for the long-term plan. Jessica asked if the plan should be simplified for interim purposes. That can be done and some items can be moved to the appendix.
 - ii. Pete Dufault joined the meeting at this time (5:51pm).
 - iii. CJ, Jessica, & Pete will continue working on the interim plan and we will look to share it with the Selectboard by July.
 - b. Formal
 - i. Survey - considered how to structure the community survey for input on the long-term management plan. Molly, John, & Callie are the subcommittee to develop a survey.
 - ii. Community engagement timeline/events.
 1. We would like to lay out a timeline beginning this summer for a kickoff. Will try to finalize that at our next meeting and share with the community to clarify how to get involved in the process.
5. Addy Indy - community update
 - a. Discussed updates that could be shared with the reporter from the Indy.
6. Invasive plant removal

- a. Garlic mustard was discovered at a log landing on the property. A. Johnson is OK with the committee managing invasives. Committee members will try to work on the garlic mustard in the next week.
- 7. Other updates & project timeline review (7:00pm)
 - a. Fundraising
 - i. We are at \$64,270 of funds raised! \$14k over our original goal of \$50k.
 - b. Old Airport Road
 - i. The Selectboard will have its deliberative session on June 6th and has asked the Town Forest Committee to recommend whether there should be any additional considerations in a potential transaction with Tom Kenyon, regarding the purchase of parcels on Old Airport Road that the Town sold to Kenyon in 1996, such as a trail easement.
 - ii. **Jaime moved to find that premature public awareness of the details of negotiations related to the purchase of a portion of Old Airport Rd. from Tom Kenyon could place the Town at a significant disadvantage. John seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (7-0-0).**
 - iii. **Jaime moved to enter Executive Session to discuss the purchase of a portion of Old Airport Rd. from Tom Kenyon and to invite Bob Heiser to join the committee in the session. John seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (7-0-0).** Entered the Executive Session at 6:54pm.
 - iv. **Jaime moved to exit the Executive Session. John seconded. All were in favor (7-0-0).** Exited the Executive Session at 7:18pm.
 - v. **Jessica moved to recommend to the Selectboard that the Town should buy Tom Kenyon's parcels on Old Airport Road. The purchase should proceed for the requested sum of \$5,000 without any further conditions. Jaime seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (6-0-1), with John abstaining because he will be considering this recommendation at the Selectboard.**
 - vi. Callie will communicate our recommendation to the Selectboard.
 - c. Kaolin Dam - beavers
 - i. Discussed the Kaolin Dam and how water levels are being managed. VLT is looking at how to help with a beaver deceiver device this summer.
 - d. Title work
 - i. The committee is working with VLT and A. Johnson on an approach to resolving one remaining title concern.
- 8. Set next meeting date(s)
 - a. Wednesday, June 19th, 5:00pm

Adjournment: Molly moved to adjourn. All were in favor (7-0-0). Adjourned at 7:29pm

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.