

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 19th, 2024, 5:00pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom
(Approved: July 29th, 2024)

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 5:03pm

1. Review Agenda
2. Public Comment (up to 15 minutes) - none offered
3. Review 5/8/24 and 5/29/24 minutes
 - a. **Jessica moved to approve the minutes of 5/29/2024 as written. Molly seconded.** There was no further discussion. **So moved (6-0-0).**
 - b. Jaime will create minutes for the 5/8 site visit and UVM presentation.
4. Community Events
 - a. Strawberry Festival 6/30/24
 - i. Jaime, Callie, John, and others will be on hand to set up at 9:30am. We will do a posting on FPF.
5. Interim considerations at the future MTF
 - a. Turtles & Plant walk request
 - i. Plant walk request - we will generally hold off on educational events of this type until the Town Forest transaction occurs.
 - ii. Turtle study - this would be a few individuals doing some field work
 - b. Invasives & mowing
 - i. The committee removed a substantial population of invasive garlic mustard from an area on the western side of the parcel, with the permission of A. Johnson.
 - ii. Jaime mowed the primary double-track trails on the western side of the parcel, with permission of A. Johnson, to improve the experience of visitors.
 - c. Kaolin Dam – beavers
 - i. Residents on or near Bear Pond Rd expressed concerns about the recent release of water from the Kaolin dam. The committee worked to clarify that the town does not yet own the property, but can help to coordinate communication with the HOA on the road where we have information on water management activities.

- ii. The committee and VLT are meeting with Skip Lisle, with the permission of the two landowners who own the dam, regarding the potential for a beaver deceiver device to be installed at the property.
- 6. Management Plan Planning
 - a. Interim - draft
 - i. Discussed the current draft of the interim plan and consolidated feedback received to date from committee members and Bob (VLT).
 - ii. John needed to leave the meeting early at 6:00pm.
 - b. Formal – survey draft, community engagement timeline/events
 - i. Discussed the survey that will be going out to the community this summer to begin gathering feedback for the long-term management plan. We expect to have community meetings to gather input on the plan.
- 7. Other updates & project timeline review
 - a. Old Airport Road
 - i. The Selectboard has decided to lay out and accept Old Airport Rd as a Class IV road with conditions, including closing on the town forest, a survey of the road being completed, and a signed release from the residents.
 - b. Title work
 - i. A. Johnson is working on clearing title to a 10-acre portion of the overall parcel. There are a couple of options that would allow the project to conclude successfully.
 - c. Federal Grant requirements for closing
 - i. No new updates.
 - d. Barnum ROW
 - i. No new updates.
 - e. Bowman BLA
 - i. The BLA application has been received by the Zoning Administrator and the DRB should be hearing the application in the next several weeks.
 - f. Fundraising
 - i. No new updates.
- 8. Set next meeting date(s)
 - a. Wednesday, July 10th, 6:00pm
 - b. Thursday, July 25th, 6:00pm

Adjournment: Jessica moved to adjourn. All were in favor (6-0-0). Adjourned at 6:57pm

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.