

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 16th, 2024, 6:30pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom
(Approved: TBD)

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

Members absent: None

Guests: None

Call To Order - Callie called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

- Review Agenda - no new items
- Public Comment, up to 10 minutes - None offered
- Long-Term management plan
 - Review outreach survey to date
 - Reviewed the summary of surveys so far, particularly for the next session on hunting & trapping.
 - Recap/Prep for special topic meetings
 - 1. Sun Oct 13th 1pm-3pm: Animals (Dog walking & Horseback riding)
 - 2. Wed Oct 23rd 7pm-9pm: Hunting & Trapping
 - Discussed the format of the upcoming session. Jaime will get the subcommittee the survey data to pull themes from the feedback.
 - 3. Wed Oct 30th 7pm-9pm: Mechanized recreation (mountain/fat biking, snowmobiling, and races/fitness events).
 - Jaime will get the subcommittee the survey data to pull themes from the feedback.
 - 4. Sun Nov 10th 1pm-3pm: Extraction (Timber harvests, Maple sugaring, Foraging)
 - 5. Sat Nov 16th 1pm-3pm: Visual/Aesthetics (Art/sculpture, Interpretive trails, Signage)
- Other Updates & Project Timeline
 - Project timeline and action items for closing
 - Expecting to complete the purchase in December. Will be meeting with the Selectboard on Tuesday about the Option To Purchase.
 - Documents to Review:
 - Management fund MOU
 - Reviewed the draft MOU from Vermont Land Trust (VLT).

- **John moved to recommend that the SB approve the VLT MOU for the Mgmt fund. Molly seconded.** There was some discussion regarding maintenance of access roads vs. access points. **All were in favor (7-0-0).**
 - VLT Baseline Documentation Report
 - Reviewed the VLT Baseline Documentation Report
 - **John moved to recommend to the Selectboard that they approve the Baseline Documentation Report. Jaime seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (7-0-0).**
 - Abutter letter(s)
 - Reviewed the draft letters to abutting landowners regarding the purchase.
 - **John moved to recommend the Selectboard send a final version of the draft Monkton Town Forest Abutters Letters and Map to abutting landowners. CJ seconded.** Discussed some edits needed, which Callie will make. **All were in favor (7-0-0).**
 - OAR Deed of dedication
 - Reviewed a draft of an Old Airport Rd. Deed of Dedication. There was some discussion about the town's obligations under the proposed easement based on the draft language.
 - **John moved to recommend distributing the draft deed of dedication and acceptance for Old Airport Rd to individuals with an existing easement and/or ownership interest in Old Airport Rd., pending clarification of the town's obligations under the proposed easement by the town attorney. Jaime seconded.** Callie will request clarification from the town attorney. **All were in favor (7-0-0).**
- Plan for OAR Maintenance - will discuss next steps with the Selectboard on Tuesday and reach out to residents with an update.
- 2025 Committee Budget - postponed to next meeting
- UVM Field Naturalist - Fall fieldwork follow-up - some field work has been completed.
- Review Minutes 9/23, 9/28, 10/12 & 10/13 (8:15pm)
 - **Jaime moved to approve the minutes of 9/23/2024 as amended. John seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (7-0-0).**
 - Review of other minutes postponed.
- Set next meeting date(s) (8:20pm)
 - Regular meeting: Wednesday, November 6th, 2024, 6:30pm

Adjournment: Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (7-0-0). Adjourned at 8:39pm.

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.