

Monkton Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee Minutes
Thursday, November 19, 2024 6:30 p.m.
Online Meeting Via Zoom

Members: Laura Farrell (Chair), Susan Mahony (Vice Chair), Jessica Demeritt (Clerk), Debbie Houghton, John Mejia (Digital Wiz), Steve Parren (alternate), Jaime Schulte (alternate)

Absent: none

Guests: none

- 1) Call the meeting to order - Laura called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.
- 2) Review Agenda
 - No additions/changes
- 3) Approve minutes of November 7, 2024
 - Jaime moved to approve the minutes of November 7, 2024 as written. Steve seconded. The vote passed 4-0-3. Laura, Debbie, and John abstained.
- 4) Updates:
 - End at 8:15 or earlier reminder
 - Town Forest Update - Jaime noted that closing on the town forest is planned for Friday. Laura suggested having a celebration.
 - Operational Guidelines – The appointment changes were made by the Selectboard on November 11, 2024. There was discussion about changing the guidelines to allow ANAC to directly purchase land as suggested by the Selectboard. Laura asked about a guarantee that the town would not develop land if the ANA Fund was used for a land purchase. In January the committee will revisit the guidelines.
 - Raven Ridge - Susan will contact TNC regarding the sign lying on the ground by the parking area. She noted there is a rumor about overnight parking; there is concern about camping occurring in the area. We will try to contact neighbors who may be able to confirm the rumors.
- 5) 2025 Budget
 - Town Forest remaining funds allocated for appraisals in 2022 @ closing (\$1,813)
 - Project expenses in the pipeline, upcoming projects and associated costs were discussed.
 - **Susan moved to make a request for \$45,000 for ANAC. Debbie seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.**
- 6) Planning for aggregate forest and other projects
 - Updates & Next steps - no action taken
- 7) 2024 Annual Report

There was discussion about what to include in the annual report: the town forest, the smoothed out forest conservation process. John offered to help write the report.

8) Other business

- There was no other business.

9) Confirm date(s) and locations/zoom

- Wednesday, Dec 11th, 6:30pm

10) Reviewed Minutes

11) Adjourn

- **Laura moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. All voted in favor.**