

**Town of Monkton**  
**Town Forest Committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, December 4th, 2024**  
**7:00-9:00pm, in-person and on Zoom/Phone at Town Hall**  
(Approved: TBD)

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

**Members absent:** None

**Guests:** Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust), Caitlin Cusack (Vermont Land Trust), Tammy Parker, Andrew Borgens, Greg Paulman, Casey Danforth, Theresa Payea, Sue Stasny, Adam Miller, Stephen Pilcher, Debra Sprague, Marilyn Cargill, Chris Knapp, Tom Charnley, David Bristol, Beverly Soychak, Steve Parren, Susan Randall Davis, Larry Pike, Walter Crandall, Barb Crandall, Robert (on Zoom - last name unknown), Eugenie Doyle.

**Purpose:** to continue a discussion of Hunting and Trapping with regard to the Town Forest Management Plan process.

The meeting began at 7:00. Five participants were on Zoom. Introductions took place around the room.

- There was an overview of the project status and timeline. The Town just completed the purchase on November 22nd.
- Management Planning
  - The [Interim Management Plan](#) is now in place until it is replaced with the long-term Management Plan that we are working on now. This meeting is part of the community input process for the long-term plan.
  - Reviewed how different uses will be evaluated in the management plan process.
  - Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust) discussed the Conservation Easement that Vermont Land Trust will hold and that it protects pedestrian uses, including hunting, fishing, & trapping, although municipalities can limit or prohibit these if there are safety or resource concerns.
  - We looked at survey feedback received to-date on hunting, trapping, and fishing. There is substantial support for fishing and very few concerns. Hunting has some net support and many concerns, primarily about safety. Trapping has strong opposition in the survey, with many concerns about the safety of dogs, kids, & adults in this multi-use space. Some copies of all the survey comments on hunting and trapping (20 pages of comments!) were available in the room.
- The main agenda item tonight was a discussion on four questions that will help the committee navigate the substantial and wide-ranging feedback from residents about hunting and trapping in the town forest, and to do so in the context of the Conservation Easement.

- Marilyn Cargill (Co-Chair of the Planning Commission) moderated a discussion of these four questions:
  - Question 1: **Many Monkton residents are concerned about or opposed to hunting in the town forest due to safety reasons. How can safety concerns around hunting be addressed?**
  - Question 2: **If separate times or zones are an approach to safety, how would that work best?**
  - Question 3: **How can safety and resource concerns around trapping be addressed?**
  - Question 4: **What seasons/species should be allowed at the MTF?**

Notes on the discussion were summarized on easel sheets and additional notes were taken by two committee members. Those notes will be collected and sent to participants who left an email address on the sign-in sheet.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:00pm.

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.