

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 9th, 2025, 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom

Members: Jaime Schulte (Vice Chair), John McNerney, Jessica Demeritt, Molly Parren, Cassandra Corcoran

Members Not Present: Callie Brynn (Chair), CJ Buzzy

Guests: None

Jaime called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Regular business

- Reviewed Agenda - question about Trail Finder added under Proposed Work
- Public Comment (Guests) up to 10 minutes - none offered
- Review Minutes:
 - **John moved the minutes of June 11th, 2025 as written. Jessica seconded. The vote passed (5-0-0).**
 - **Jessica moved the minutes of June 14th, 2025 as written. Molly seconded. The vote passed (4-0-1),** with John abstaining (not present on 6/14).
- Recommendations & requests
 - Monkton Day table 8/17 - we will plan to have a table (on the lawn at the Town Hall 10am-3pm); we can talk about what is happening at the town forest; John will be out of town; the table can be unmanned if needed, with map, ratsnake sign, etc.

New Business

- County Forester / UVM Service Learning course
 - County Forester reached out about a UVM service learning course: Brandon Benedict is meeting with the Conservation Commission tomorrow to work on the topic of a course. Discussed ideas such as community engagement in invasive removal in the town forest and for trash removal. No concerns at this time with the course taking place at the MTF whether related to MTF priorities or not.
- Draft beaver policy rec for MCC
 - Beaver Policy: Discussed situation at Kaolin Dam. Reviewed the beaver policy sent by the Conservation Commission and made some notes with our recommendations/feedback.
 - **John moved to endorse the draft Monkton Beaver Control Protocol with our recommendations and send it back to the Conservation Commission. Cassandra seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.** Jaime will share the recommendations with the Conservation Commission at their meeting tomorrow.

Old Business

- 6/14 Open house recap

- Discussed the open house and feedback about proposed trails and the maintenance issues each comes with. We would like to keep both trails flagged for now and see which one people seem to prefer to use.
- Federal Grant final report
 - Jaime to check in with the new contact for CFP - we'll plan to complete the report this summer.
- Proposed work (kiosk/signage, trails, access, subcommittee, invasives, mowing)
 - Proposed work: for the fall: improved signage about hunting/trapping guidelines in town forest; work on the trail/loop between Airport and Hardscrabble, so people uncomfortable with hunting will have somewhere separate to hike during the season; get in touch with neighbors about Safety Zone signs.
 - Kiosks: discussed working on kiosks similar to the ones at Little Hogback. Discussed a potential size of 30x48": larger than at Little Hogback, but will still be tight on space.
 - John talked to the town's insurer about volunteer waivers. We will want to run scenarios by the town attorney. Power tools are the primary concern. Requiring Game of Logging training and self-certifying as to training/experience would seem logical.
 - Invasives: some parsnip near both parking areas and along Hardscrabble. We will try to remove it this season.
 - Another round of trail mowing would be helpful soon.
 - Trail Finder: the committee was contacted asking if we want the MTF trails on Trail Finder - we would like to hold off on that until we finalize the trail system - it is not ready to be on an app yet as we figure things out. Lots of trail design and work to do and we are not ready for that.
 - Trail counters: Need to look into this option further.
- Kaolin Dam status
 - John and Jaime have been working on maintenance of the beaver fence, etc. Need to check in with Dam Safety about the best approach to removing trees from the downstream side of the dam.
- Grants/fundraising committee update
 - Grants/Fundraising- no updates. Grant cycle starts in fall.
- OAR Maintenance
 - Consider how to restart the process of discussing this again - where are the residents at with the topic now? The Town's offer is on the table until January. Jaime to discuss next steps with Callie.

Upcoming Community Events (*'On the calendar'*)

- Monkton Day - Sunday, August 17th
- Set the next meeting date(s): Wednesday, August 20th, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Cassandra moved to adjourn. John seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0. Adjourned at 9:00pm.