

**Town of Monkton**  
**Town Forest Committee**  
**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, October 17th, 2023, 5:30pm**  
**Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom**

Members present: Callie Brynn (Chair), Jaime Schulte (Vice-Chair), John McNerney  
Members absent: Molly Parren, Peter Dufault, CJ Buzzy (Alternate)  
Guests: Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust), Walt Poleman (UVM Professor), Brian Morgan, Peter Close, Walter Crandall, Barb Crandall.

**Call To Order** - Callie called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

- 1. Reviewed the Agenda** - no changes
- 2. Public Comment (15 minutes)** - there was no public comment
- 3. Community input/outreach next steps**
  - a. UVM Landscape Inventory & Assessment class in the spring semester
    - i. Walter Poleman is a UVM professor in Natural Resources and Ag & Life Sciences. He is teaching a course on Landscape Inventory & Assessment (LIA) and has taught many graduate students who are becoming field naturalists, including two who have done inventory work in Monkton (Lyra Brennan and Chris Aiello). He would like to bring a LIA class of 6-8 graduate students to study the town forest parcel during the spring 2024 semester. They will provide a lot of information about the property, an interim and final report, a community presentation and a field walk with the community.
    - ii. The class will run from January through May. One of the first steps will be for the students to work with the Town Forest Committee on what information is needed most. They will spend an afternoon in the field weekly - commonly accompanied by local professionals in the field (such as the county forester, Jens Hilke from VT Fish & Wildlife, UVM Spatial Analysis Lab, Michael McDonald UVM Ecologist, etc). There would be some opportunity for the community to join the field work and observe.
    - iii. The town forest project budget has capacity to cover the \$1-2k cost of transportation and such for the group. We have some funds planned to develop the Management Plan for the project and this project will strongly support/inform the development of the Plan. There may also be help from a small grant that has been applied for.
    - iv. We will complete a letter of agreement/MOU between the Town and the UVM Field Naturalist Program, to outline the responsibilities of each party. The intention will be to finish that agreement by late November.
- 4. Old Airport Rd updates (if available)**

- a. Road maintenance & access - Jim Carroll (town attorney) is reviewing the draft and will provide feedback. John McNerney is following up on his timeframe.

**5. Grant/funding updates**

- a. Fundraising committee met on October 12th to begin fundraising work on that last 5% of the project budget (\$50k). Worked on their approach.
- b. Jaime to update the town forest webpage about the federal grant news and the fundraising efforts.

**6. Other project updates & timeline review**

- a. Photo shoot (related to fundraising) took place with a VLT photographer
- b. Herp field survey was conducted by Jim Andrews on September 21st
- c. Twenge/Paul Fournier storm salvage is in-progress
- d. Kaolin Dam - coordinated with the owners on high water due to beaver activity. The beaver dam blockage failed after the recent rain and did send a large amount of water downstream. The pond is currently at a normal/lower level.
- e. Barnum ROW - waiting for a draft
- f. Boundaries - continuing to refine the understanding of parcel acreage using surveys.

**7. Committee Communication/coordination**

- a. Callie is back from maternity leave.

**8. Review of minutes - postponed**

**9. Set next meeting date(s) - postponed**

**Adjournment** - John moved to adjourn. All were in favor (3-0-0). Adjourned at 6:51pm.

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.