

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 14th, 2024, 4:00pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom
(Approved: May 1st, 2024)

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

Members absent: Pete Dufault

Guests: Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust)

Call To Order - Callie called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. CJ was not on the call initially.

1. Reviewed Agenda - no changes
2. Reviewed 2/28/24 minutes
 - a. **Jaime moved to approve the minutes of February 28th, 2024 as amended (minor edits). Molly seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (4-0-0).**
3. Public Comment (up to 15 minutes) - none offered
4. Fundraising/community updates
 - a. Town Meeting Day recap - had a number of good conversations at the table in the hallway at Town Meeting.
 - b. CJ Buzzy joined the meeting at this point.
 - c. We will post a community update on the project and fundraising. We'll share the exciting news that we have raised enough money for the town to acquire the land through the generosity of funders and donors. There is a mailing going out in the next couple of days to invite the community to help make the project budget and management plan as strong as possible.
5. Interim Management Plan
 - a. Reviewed the progress that Molly, Callie, and CJ have made so far on the interim management plan. The interim plan is a placeholder that guides management of the new town forest for several months while the full plan is being created with the community this summer. In general we expect to stick to state and town guidelines for topics like dogs, wetland setbacks, or hunting in this interim phase while the community has the chance to be heard and we have the opportunity to absorb the data provided by the UVM class that is assessing the land and other inputs to the management plan.
 - b. Worked on having mentions of what work might be done during the interim period, such as potential parking improvements, signage, etc.
6. Other updates & timeline review

- a. Old Airport Road Hearing 3/28/24
 - i. There is a Selectboard hearing coming up on the 28th regarding Old Airport Road potentially becoming a Class IV road. The committee will cover the main points of our letter to the Selectboard and anticipates that the Old Airport Rd residents will do that same.
 - b. Barnum - feedback provided to A. Johnson for this forestry ROW.
 - c. UVM Course - the class is visiting the land on most Mondays
 - d. Title work - working with A. Johnson to clarify title to a particular 10-acre section of the overall ~447 acres in the project. That process, and potentially related minor adjustments to things like the appraisal, will likely shift a closing on the project from the June/July timeframe to more like August or potentially later.
 - e. Grant requirements for closing - working on the list
7. Set next meeting date(s) recurring
- a. Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024, 5:30pm

Adjournment - John moved to adjourn. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 6:07pm.

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.