

Monkton Planning Commission  
Public Hearing on the Town Plan  
June 18, 2024

The informational session was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by M. Cargil.

Members Present: Wendy Sue Harper (co-chair), Marilyn Cargil (co-chair), Ivor Hughes, Mike New, Peter Close

Members Absent: Gary Strait

Visitors: Debra Sprague, Brian Morgan, John McNerney, Ann Miller, Jaime Schulte, Sue Stasny, Janet Schwarz, Nancy Wilson

M. Cargil noted that the hearing was not legally warned, therefore the hearing would not take place tonight but at a future date to ensure a legally passed document. An information session was held to discuss the town plan.

D. Sprague referred to pages 23 and 24 on the red lined copy. The plan says in the last sentence on page 23 that Monkton is part of a 13-member board representing the 5 towns of Monkton, Starksboro, Bristol, Lincoln, and New Haven. But Lincoln left MAUSD, so there are now only 4 towns. The 13-member board has probably changed, too, but getting details would require looking at the MAUSD website. She noted that the three paragraphs about MAUSD in the middle of page 24 will also need to be revised to accurately reflect the current composition of MAUSD and its School Board.

D. Sprague also noted a possible typo regarding the size of Morse Park. On page 34, the last paragraph states Morse Park consists of 37.1 acres, but it's closer to 47.1.

A. Miller asked about what a groundwater overlay district was. W.S. Harper explained the lack of town water and the need to protect groundwater. There was discussion about a fuel plume that spoils the water on the Ridge.

J. McNerney noted that on page 35 of the red lined copy, he was most concerned about human activity and development over fishing and hunting. W.S. Harper noted it was historically in the town plan and that the suggested wording was an appropriate replacement. J. McNerney noted that on page 44 of the red lined copy under transportation safety concerns, a legal trail that runs through the Layn Farm is not on the map.

A Miller asked about a deleted paragraph on page 34 of the red lined copy, regarding Morse Park. It was noted that the paragraph was moved.

J. Schulte noted that the Town Plan looked good; the maps look great.

D. Sprague noted on page 50-51 of the red lined version, the census data on those pages is from 2010.

L. Farrell noted on page 60, bottom, red lined version, only for agricultural land, not forest land. Little Hogback Community Forest is not included as conserved land. W.S. Harper noted J. McNerney said not to list it in that section. L. Farrell noted that Hogback Heaven was not conserved by ANAC. L. Farrell noted on page 102, red lined version, the zoning overlay district, the caption could use more explanation. L. Farrell noted the wonderful picture on page 106, and that credit for photo was not given.

Comments submitted by email dated June 9, 2024 from Cindy Walcott:

I am reviewing the update to the plan . First of all, nice job!

Based on my areas of town involvement, I noticed a few things that may need correction or clarification.

1. Town History (page 11)

"Many of the old-name families in Monkton trace ancestors to many western population centers."

This sentence is confusing, and one might argue, inaccurate. Suggested edit:

Many descendants of old-name Monkton families can now be found in population centers to our west.

2. Library (page 32)

The library's benefactor was Dr. George Russell, not Albert Russell.

See this section of the library's website:

<https://russelllibraryvt.wordpress.com/the-building/>

3. Cemeteries (page 33)

Also, the content about cemeteries is not entirely accurate. It currently says:

"There are currently three in-use cemeteries in Monkton. Monkton Ridge Cemetery sits next to the Town Hall and dates back to 1804. The Monkton Borough Cemetery, on Pond Road dates back to 1816 and the Morgan Cemetery, on Church Street in East Monkton dates back to 1812. There is also the Hurlburt cemetery and the Carter cemetery. The cemeteries are maintained by the Town. According to historic records there are six othercemeteries in Monkton, the earliest of which dates to 1793." As implied by the second paragraph there are nine cemeteries in Monkton. They are listed below, along with what I have been able to determine about governance. I am sure you won't want to include all of this, but you may want to correct the current content in the plan.

Barnumtown (town?)

Beers (Bristol Road) (not sure who oversees it)

Boro - Monkton Boro Cemetery Association, now inactive

Carter - Carter Cemetery Association

East Monkton (East Monkton Cemetery Association)

Friends (Friends-Methodist Church)

Horan (on private land, landlocked)

Monkton Ridge (Monkton Ridge Cemetery Association)

Smith (near the Grange Hall, landlocked) (town?)

4. East Monkton Church (page 36)

The highlighted word should be deleted.

The East Monkton Church association has been an important gathering place for Monkton residents since its dedication in 1867 and is a multigenerational community space today.

Comment submitted by email dated June 5, 2024 by John McNerney:

In the redline version of the town plan (as posted on the website), at the top of pg 32 in the section about the New Town Hall the first partial sentence reads "... as well as the Russell Memorial." The word "Library" is missing.

The information session was closed at 8:01 p.m. by M. Cargil.

The hearing was called to order by S. Wilbur at 8:02 p.m.

Members Present: Wendy Sue Harper (co-chair), Marilyn Cargill (co-chair), Ivor Hughes, Peter Close, Mike New

Members Absent: Gary Strait

Visitors: Laura Farrell, John McNerney, Brian Morgan, Jaime Schulte

S. Wilbur asked if there was any testimony for the hearing?

L. Farrell wanted to thank the Planning Commission for their work.

The hearing was closed at 8:06 p.m. by moderator S. Wilbur.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.