

Monkton Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 7 November 2024, 6:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Attending: Susan Mahony (Vice Chair - joined at 6:50), Jessica Demeritt (Clerk), Jaime Schulte (Alternate), Steve Parren (Alternate)

Members Absent: Laura Farrell (Chair), Debbie Houghton, John Mejia (Digital Wiz)

Guests: None

- 1) **Call to order** - Jessica called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.
- 2) Agenda additions/changes and Minutes taker
 - No additions/changes; Jaime will be the minutes taker tonight.
- 3) Approve minutes of 25th Sept 24 meeting uploaded to this link
 - There was no meeting in October. Our last meeting was on Sept 25th.
 - **Steve moved to approve the minutes of September 25th, 2024 as written. Jessica seconded.** There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (3-0-0).**
- 4) Updates:
 - Town Forest Update
 - The community process to develop a management plan for the property is underway. There has been a kickoff meeting and sessions on dogs, horses, hunting, trapping, mountain bikes, snowmobiles, and races/fitness events so far. Sessions remaining are on Sunday 11/10 on Extraction (timber harvests, foraging, sugaring), on Saturday 11/16 on Visual/Aesthetics (Art/sculpture, Interpretive trails, Signage), and on Wednesday 12/4 (continuation of the Hunting/Trapping session).
 - The purchase of the land is expected to be complete in the next few weeks!
 - Operational Guidelines – to be considered @ Nov 12 Selectboard meeting
 - Raven Ridge: parking, conservation & rec, back trails
 - Trails are in great shape; existing storm damage has been partially cleared on the northern end (downed trees); some cars were there after dark.
- 5) 2025 Budget
 - Town Forest remaining funds to be disbursed in 2024 for project closing:
 - Remaining amount allocated for appraisals in 2022 due @ closing: \$1,812.50.
 - Amount allocated in 2023 due @ closing: \$45,000.
 - Project expenses in the pipeline; Other expenses - discussed, will continue budget consideration at our next meeting.
 - Potential future projects could involve the wildlife crossing uplands.

6) Planning for aggregate forest and other projects - no specific updates at this time.

7) 2024 Annual Report

- Discussed the approach to writing a 2024 report. Due by January.

8) Confirm date(s) and locations/zoom

- November: Tuesday, Nov 19th, 6:30pm.
- December: Thursday, Dec 19th, 6:30pm (tentative); December 11th & 12th are also options. To be confirmed with the rest of the committee and added to the town calendar.

9) Reviewed Minutes

10) **Adjournment** - Steve moved to adjourn. All voted in favor (4-0-0). Adjourned at 7:22pm.