

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 20th, 2024, 6:30pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
(Approved: TBD)

Members present: Callie Brynn (Chair), Jaime Schulte (Vice-Chair), John McNerney, Molly Parren, Jessica Demeritt, Pete Dufault

Members absent: CJ Buzzy

Guests: Bob Heiser (Vermont Land Trust)

Call To Order - Callie called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

- Review Agenda - no items added
- Public Comment, up to 10 minutes - none offered
- Long-Term management plan
 - Review outreach survey to date
 - We'll work on assembling the survey feedback and community meeting notes to share with the community. There is a lot of content to assemble, so that will take some time. This social aspect of uses will be combined with other factors, including ecology, financial, legal considerations as we look to the management planning.
 - Recap/Prep for special topic meetings
 - Sun Nov 10th 1pm-3pm: Extraction (Timber harvests, Maple Sugaring, Foraging) - need to send out notes from the session to participants
 - Sat Nov 16th 1pm-3pm: Visual/Aesthetics (Art/sculpture, Interpretive trails, Signage - need to send out notes from the session to participants
 - Wed Dec 4th 7pm-9pm: Hunting & Trapping (Follow-up Discussion)
 - Jessica has consolidated notes from the first session and will work on the topic list for the follow-up.
 - Subcommittee: Jessica, CJ, John
 - Plan to draft framework
 - We'll look for a template for the management plan and begin to build an outline. Jaime has reached out to the federal grant
 - Drafting subcommittee: Jaime, Callie, Molly
- Other Updates & Project Timeline
 - Project timeline and action items for closing
 - Closing set for 11/22/24
 - Interim Management Plan signs, gates
 - 2025 Committee Budget

- Dam inspection \$250; Mailing \$950; Old Airport Rd Maintenance \$TBD; Community event \$300. Overall budget request of \$1,500 plus the question of OAR.
 - **John moved a 2025 budget request of \$1,500 for the Town Forest Committee exclusive of Old Airport Rd maintenance costs (to be determined by the Select Board). Jessica seconded.**
There was no further discussion. **All were in favor (6-0-0).**
 - OAR Maintenance
 - The next step is for residents of OAR and the Select Board to discuss maintenance. The Town also needs to send the draft Deeds of Dedication (prepared by Jim Carroll) regarding Class IV along with the survey of OAR.
 - UVM Field Naturalist - Fall fieldwork follow-up
 - We are looking forward to the report from the field work.
- Review Minutes 11/6, 11/10, 11/16
 - **John moved to approve the minutes of 11/6/2024 as written. Jessica seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0).**
 - **Jessica moved to approve the minutes of 11/10/2024 as written. Pete seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0).**
 - **John moved to approve the minutes of 11/16/2024 as written. Jaime seconded. So moved (4-0-2),** with Jessica and Pete abstaining as they were not present on 11/16.
- Set next meeting date(s):
 - Wednesday 12/4/24 7:00pm - follow-up meeting on Hunting/Trapping
 - Monday 12/16/24 6:30pm - regular meeting (hybrid)

Adjournment: John moved to adjourn. All were in favor (6-0-0). Adjourned at 8:34pm.

Minutes taken by Jaime Schulte.