

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 19th, 2025, 6:30pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom

Members: Callie Brynn (Chair), Jaime Schulte (Vice Chair), John McNerney, Peter Dufault, Molly Parren, CJ Buzzy, Jessica Demeritt

Callie called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

- Reviewed Agenda
- Public Comment (up to 10 minutes) - none offered
- Review Minutes
 - Jessica moved the minutes of January 22nd, 2025 as written. Jaime seconded. So moved (6-0-1) with CJ abstaining (not present at the 1/22 meeting).
 - John moved the minutes of February 3rd, 2025 as written. Jessica seconded. All were in favor (7-0-0).
- Interim Management Plan
 - Signs, parking, trails, other - the parking areas at OAR and Hardscrabble have been plowed following the storm on Sunday. There is considerable snow depth on the trails and many snowshoe and ski tracks can be seen.
- Long-Term management plan
 - Reviewed draft
 - Discussed the revised draft on hunting and other uses, reviewed the management goals, Duxbury's beaver management policy, and other areas of the plan.
 - Community engagement timeline
 - We'll post an update this week on Front Porch Forum about winter access to the Town Forest and the schedule of

community engagement on the management plan. The plan should be shared with the community by about March 12th and there will be community meetings to review and discuss it on March 19th and 22nd.

- Other Updates:
 - Town Meeting Day
 - We'll have a Town Forest table and will share the schedule of community engagement on the management plan.
 - Federal Grant requirements - working on closing out documentation
 - 2025 bat and snake field studies - more to come on this - checking with the Selectboard to confirm
 - Vermont Town Forest Project (Town Forest Census) - Callie will add the MTF to the census.
 - Community Celebration - discussed possible dates in April through June
 - Kenyon purchase - this should be completed in the coming days
 - OAR Maintenance - close to completing an agreement and class IV
 - Grant/fundraising committee - no action taken
 - The committee expressed our appreciation for Pete Dufault's service to the committee. His term is expiring in March and he does not plan to ask for reappointment. Pete is an original member of the committee, from when it was formed in March of 2019, so has served six years! It has been a very successful run, going from a goal to achieving the reality of a Monkton Town Forest!
- Set next meeting date(s)
 - The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, March 5th, at 6:30 pm.
 - Community Meeting on the Management Plan, Wednesday, March 19th, 7:00pm.
 - Community Meeting on the Management Plan, Saturday, March 22nd, 10:00am.

Jessica moved to adjourn at 9:17 pm. The vote passed 7-0-0.