

Monkton Conservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 04/08/25, 11:30 AM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
(Approved: TBD)

Members Present: Ann Miller (co-chair), Sue Stasny (co-chair), Jaime Schulte, Debra Sprague, Janet Schwarz

Members Absent: David Moore

Meeting called to order by Ann Miller at 11:35am.

1. Public Comment – none offered

2. Monkton Town Forest Management Plan

- The purpose of this Special Meeting was to consider the Monkton Town Forest Management Plan that will be reviewed by the Monkton Selectboard on 4/8/25 at 7:00pm.
- Jaime presented the current draft of the Monkton Town Forest Management Plan. Debra recommended that a paragraph of Conservation Commission input to the Management Plan in Section 5.2 regarding a future Forest Management Plan, from this past winter, be revised for clarity and wording:
 - Text as it appeared in the draft Management Plan of 4/4/2025:

“Resources (use) should be based on science and conservation thought leadership over the past 10-15 years, new learning about how to manage forest should be used. Regenerative forestry focused on mimicking the conditions of an old growth forest featuring multiple layers and habitats necessary for native species, especially keystone plant and animal species. Leaving some sections untouched. Adopt a Forest/Timber management plan addressing scale and priorities such as native wildlife preservation and invasive species management. Budget and ROI. Funds should benefit forest management and not purposes unrelated to Town Forest.”

- Amended text, after discussion in this meeting:

“Use of resources should be based on current science and conservation thought leadership. An example would be forest management which focuses on mimicking the conditions of an old growth forest, featuring multiple layers and habitats necessary for native species, especially keystone plant and animal species, and leaving some sections untouched. Forest Management Plans should remain closely aligned with the goals and objectives for the Town Forest as

described in Section 5 of the Management Plan and the Vision statement. Regarding budget and return on investment (ROI) for timber activity, funds should benefit the Town Forest Management Fund and not purposes unrelated to the Town Forest. Related costs, such as invasive management, need to be part of the ROI calculation.”

- **Debra moved to adopt the Monkton Town Forest Management Plan, with the amended version of the paragraph of Conservation Commission feedback on the Forest Management Plan in Section 5.2. Sue seconded.** There was discussion of several points in the final draft, but no change to the motion. **All were in favor (5-0-0).**

Sue motioned to adjourn at 12:25pm. Debra seconded. All in favor (5-0-0).