

Monkton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 10, 2025

Approved: (TBD)

Members Present: Ann Miller (Co-Chair), Sue Stasny (Co-Chair), Debra Sprague (Treasurer), Janet Schwarz, David Moore

Members Absent: Jaime Schulte

Guests Present: John Corcoran

Call to order: Ann called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Jan Schwarz took the minutes this evening.

1. Regular Business:

- a. Reviewed Agenda - AVCC Tiny Grant Proposal added.
- b. Public comment - none offered.
- c. Reviewed minutes of 03/13/25. Sue made the motion to accept the minutes as written and David seconded. Motion Passed 4-0-1 (Jan abstained due to missed meeting).
- d. May meeting - Thursday 5/5/2025 @ 6:30 pm via Zoom.
- e. June meeting set for Thursday, 6/12/2025 via Zoom.

2. Other business:

- a. Butterfly Atlas
 - i. Debra reported that she watched a video posted by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies about the Second Vermont Butterfly Atlas. She proposed that the MCC join with the Pollinator Pathways group and attend the program presented by VCE at the Starksboro Library on 7/21/2025
- b. Wildlife crossing steward/funds
 - i. There was a discussion regarding who will maintain the crossings regarding mowing, etc. and trail cameras.
 - ii. Jan will contact Monkton Road Commissioner Shane

Lawrence for advice about maintaining the 2 wildlife underpasses on Monkton-Vergennes Rd.

- c. Beaver policy.
 - i. Sue shared the Beaver Policy from the Duxbury, VT Conservation Commission.
 - ii. The report given to the VT State Legislature by Hinesburg Conservation Commissioner - Bob Hyams was discussed. https://issuu.com/vtcng/docs/the_citizen_-_2-27-25
 - iii. MCC will continue to work on a town beaver policy.
- d. Community Radio
 - i. John Corcoran spoke about the Community Radio (WVVT) "Voices of Vermont) Project, based in Bristol. He was gauging interest from the MCC about programming for the station and the possibility of taping MCC programs and Podcasts.
 - ii. MCC asked for more information and a timeline.
- e. Bobolink Project, update
 - i. Sue sent the Bobolink Project the proposal to include Morse Park as one of the observation sites.
 - ii. Hyla Howe will be contacting MCC if the proposal is accepted.
- f. Town Forest Walk with County Forester.
 - i. Sue reported that she'd sent an email to Brandon Benedict giving him possible dates for the walk (possibility of 6/7/25/at 11:00 am).
- g. Brochure mailing update
 - i. MCC will meet at Ann's for an addressing/stamping "party" in April.
- h. Buckthorn & Parsnip Eradication - schedule of sessions:
 - i. Buckthorn - Saturdays, 5/10/25 and 5/17/25 from 10:00-11:30 am.
 - ii. Wild Parsnip - 6 Wednesdays - 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25, 7/2, 7/9.
 - iii. Monkton resident Chris Wolak has volunteered to design promotional posters for the eradication sessions. Sue will contact him with the details.
- i. Town Forest Management Plan

- i. Changes to the plan were discussed at a special MCC meeting on 4/8/2025. Several paragraphs were re-worded, and Jaime sent the changes to the MTF Committee and the Monkton Selectboard (presented at Selectboard Meeting on 4/8/2025). For the changes, See Meeting Minutes of 4/8/2025
- 3. Members other topics, interests, or concerns
 - a. Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) Mini-Grant
 - b. Sue completed the grant proposal to establish three Bird-Viewing “Kits”, consisting of small backpack, binoculars, guidebook, etc. for a total of \$660.
 - c. MCC approved proposal which Sue will submit to AVCC before deadline of 4/18/2025
- 4. Ann moved to adjourn at 8:20pm and Deb seconded. Passed 5-0-0