

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 16th, 2025, 6:30pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom

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

Guests: Cassandra Corcoran

Callie called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

- Reviewed Agenda - no changes
- Public Comment, up to 10 minutes - none offered
- Review Minutes of 4/2/25
 - **John moved the minutes of April 2nd, 2025 as amended (minor edits). Jessica seconded. The vote passed (6-0-0).**
- New Business
 - The Conservation Commission (MCC) is asking to hold an Invasives workshop on 6/7/25 with the county forester leading a walk at the Town Forest on June 7th, to offer education and guidance on recognizing and managing invasive species. The MCC will be asked to manage the number of attendees and parking. Callie will follow up with the MCC.
 - Community Celebration - Spring - Saturday, June 14th - an open house for some hours with walks/tour and food.
 - Management Plan: status, proposed work (trails, signage, access, potential subcommittee)
 - Formal approval of the plan has now been received from all Monkton parties, with formal approval enroute from VLT/VHCB.
 - The committee will work on updated signage at trailheads next.
 - There have been a couple of requests for a site walk. We'll schedule and announce a couple of them for the coming weeks.
 - Need to look into a release for volunteers to sign, at least for some uses.
 - The committee will check in with Zapata about trails and wetland buffers, to see if permits would be needed.
 - Monkton festival and Town Forest - Cassandra joined us for a few minutes to talk about the Town Forest and committee and also the Monkton festival.
 - Cassandra goes to the town forest all the time and has done a lot of exploring. She looks forward to helping with trail maintenance and

supporting ways for the community to make different uses work well together.

- She was interested in whether the committee would want to do a botany walk at the MTF location, Sunday, August 17th.
- The Monkton Festival day concept would be to have multiple events around Monkton. Hay ride, library, town forest, Morse Park, music, coffee hour, etc.
- Cassandra has some board/committee experience and is interested in joining the committee.

- Old Business

- Federal Grant requirements

- The approved long-term management plan is due by April 21st. Pending approval from Vermont Land Trust and VHCB.
 - Final report for the project is due soon after to the federal grant program. Jaime will draft the report and finish it with Callie. The outline of the report was discussed and the committee does not feel the need to see the final narrative and report before it is sent in.

- Grants/fundraising committee

- Discussed establishing a memorandum of understanding with the Select Board on the Town Forest Management Fund.
 - Discussed establishing a subcommittee (and maybe larger group of community members) to work on long-term fundraising and grants. Jaime, John, and CJ are interested. Before the next meeting it would be great to look at what is out there. John would like to learn more about what's involved - there may be VLCT training.

- Vermont Town Forest Project (Town Forest Census)

- Callie will send an update about the MTF.

- Kaolin Dam

- The water level is low - the standpipe cover needs to be adjusted to resolve that. We will make contact with the neighbor about that work.
 - The dam was deemed unsatisfactory in the last inspection. Some trees on the downstream side of the dam need to be removed, among other factors.

- OAR Maintenance

- No update at this time.

- Set the next meeting date(s):

- Our next meeting will be May 15th 2025, 6:30pm

Jessica moved to adjourn at 08:42pm. Jaime seconded. All were in favor 6-0-0.