

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 11th, 2025, 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall & via Zoom

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

Members Not Present: None

Guests: None

Callie called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Regular business

- Review Agenda - no changes made
- Public Comment (Guests) up to 10 minutes - none offered
- Review Minutes: 5/15/25 & 5/24/25
 - **Jessica moved the minutes of May 15th, 2025 as written. John seconded. The vote passed (6-0-1)**, with Cassandra abstaining (not a member on 5/15).
 - **Molly moved the minutes of May 24th, 2025 as written. John seconded. The vote passed (6-0-1)**, with Cassandra abstaining (not a member on 5/24).
- Recommendations & requests
 - Snake sign - we have Central (Eastern) Ratsnakes to put up on kiosk boards that have space.
 - Invasive ID recap 6/7
 - The Conservation Commission and the County Forester walked as a small group looking at invasive species on the eastern side of the Town Forest.
 - There was a suggestion from the County Forester and MCC to have a UVM class focused on service learning (led by Laura Edling) helping with the Town Forest or conservation activities in general. The purpose of this course is to have the students go out into the community, identify a problem, create a plan to solve that problem, then ideally follow through with that plan of action. We will be in contact with the MCC to discuss.

New Business

- Committee member welcome
 - Welcomed Cassandra Corcoran to the committee!
- Duxbury Beaver policy
 - Discussed the committee's role in adopting a beaver policy. We will review the Duxbury language and plan to make recommendations as they relate to the Town Forest property.

Old Business

- Proposed work (trails, kiosk/signage, access, potential subcommittee)

- Proposed trails to re-route past the steep hill west of OAR parking have been minimally cleared and flagged for feedback from the community at our open house on 6/14.
- We will continue to work on a project list.
- 6/14 Open house/Celebration planning
 - John will drop off his popup tent with Jaime.
 - We will do some walks on the western side to look at flagged trails and also get input on kiosk locations.
 - There will be some activities/crafts, snacks, etc.
- Committee positions and organization
 - No action taken.
- Kaolin Dam status
 - The dam fee was paid and maintenance of the beaver deceiver has been ongoing.
- Game cameras
 - The cameras are not up at this point. We will reevaluate as needed.
 - Addison County Regional Planning has a trail counter we could borrow for periods of time. We will continue to look into other options as well.
- Grants/fundraising committee
 - John and CJ will look into what grants are available to help with access improvements.
- Federal Grant requirements
 - Callie and Jaime will work on completing the final report ahead of the next Select Board meeting.
- Vermont Town Forest Project (Town Forest Census)
 - Callie sent information to this project so the MTF could be included.
- OAR Maintenance
 - No new progress to report. It would be good to revive some conversations to move this forward.

Upcoming Community Events (*'On the calendar'*)

- Open House/Community Celebration - June 14th 10am -1pm
- Monkton Day - August 17th
- Set the next meeting date(s): July 9th, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Jessica moved to adjourn at 08:53pm. Jaime seconded. All were in favor 7-0-0.