

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

Thursday, 2/19/26 - 6:30 PM

Virtual meeting via zoom

Approved: TBD

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8024533800?pwd=QnlTb20weWwxTEhuSmZ2RENyR3ZzUT09>

Members: Ann Miller, Jaime Schulte, Debra Sprague, Janet Schwarz, Sue Stasny

Absent: David Moore

Guests: None

1. Ann called the meeting to order @ 6:35 pm
2. Public comments - None
3. Regular Business
 - a. Reviewed Agenda - Added discussion about Monkton's Town Meeting on 2/28/26
 - b. Reviewed minutes 1/8/26; Sue made a motion to accept; Debra 2nd; Passed (5-0-0).
 - c. March meeting set for 3/12/26 @ 6:30pm via Zoom
 - d. April meeting set for 4/16/26 @ 6:30pm via Zoom
4. Other Business
 - a. Pond Brook Management Plan -
 - i. Sue, Jaime, and Ann met and organized the comments.
 - ii. They reformatted the document into an outline format using Google Docs.
 - iii. Ann will contact Laura Farrell for the deadline for the Pond Brook Management Plan submission to the Monkton Selectboard.
 - iv. Sue will contact Adam Piper (VLT) to let him know that the MCC is involved.
 - v. The next step is for the subcommittee to decide when the MCC part of the plan will be completed.
 - b. Amphibian Crossing
 - i. Jaime purchased 48 batteries and Memory cards for the tunnels' game cameras and gave them to Laura Farrell to install. He will get reimbursed from the MCC budget or any funds remaining in the original Amphibian crossing budget.

- ii. Jan will contact Laura Farrell and they will decide when to visit and assess the 2 cameras in both amphibian tunnels, and if the temperature is warm enough, insert the batteries and memory cards.
 - iii. There was discussion regarding Priority of Conservation Parcels and the advice from Bob Heiser (VLT) was to connect with property owners as a starting point.
- c. UVM Capstone project
 - i. Sue attended "Pitch Day" at UVM on Thursday 1/15/26 where she described invasive species problems, increased community involvement and possible MCC/UVM partnership. The MCC project was chosen and Sue was sent a copy of the student team's plans to review. She will get back with changes and possible contact people for the UVM students' project.
- d. DRB GoogleDoc form update,
 - i. Sue and Jaime came up with a draft template to provide the DRB with conservation information on development projects.
 - ii. The timeline was discussed and the plan is to submit the template to the Zoning Administrator and the DRB for comments.
 - iii. Jaime will ask for information regarding previous DRB submissions and decisions and then Sue will "practice" using the template to determine if past projects and the template information are "workable".
- e. Community Radio - subcommittee update
 - i. David, Jan, and Jonathan Corcoran met online with representatives from the 5-Town Conservation Commissions on 1/21/26.
 - ii. Jon updated the group that the "Go Live" date is postponed until the tower location can be determined, but the group could begin programming which would then be streamed on the WVVT website (<https://wvvt.org/landing>).
 - iii. Several program topics were discussed and David asked that everyone email their ideas to him prior to the next subcommittee meeting on 3/10/26.
 - iv. The group discussed the possibility of in-person community education programs where various Conservation Commissions could collaborate to minimize duplication of programs and decrease the burden on potential speakers.
- f. Regional Planning Commission
 - i. Debra attended the ACRPC meeting and reported on updated work with Adam Lougee (ACRPC) and Hannah Andrew on housing and zoning regulations. They have been working with

zoning and overlay district maps and possibly developing an online lookup tool to assist landowners understand zoning rules and potential restrictions before applying for development projects.

- ii. It was mentioned that the Arrowwood Environmental Data should be included.
 - iii. There was discussion that splitting up the ridgeline overlay might be a good idea - natural resource heritage; wildlife corridors; forest blocks, etc.
 - g. Rodenticide - Act H-758; Debra reported on the status of the bill to limit dangerous rodenticides, which is currently in committee hearings. She will draft a brief statement of support which the MCC will review and make comments at the MCC meeting on 3/12/26.
 - h. AVCC Tiny Grants. The three bird watching kits were funded by a Tiny Grant in 2025. There was discussion about constructing Bird houses or bat houses if the MCC wanted to submit a 2026 grant proposal to AVCC. Postponed making a decision until the 3/16/26 meeting when David would be back, as he was the member who originally introduced the topic.
 - i. Upcoming classes, courses, meetings - Jan will email the link for the online Forest Pest First Detectors course facilitated by Ginger Nickerson of UVM Extension. The course will begin on Wednesday, 3/11/25 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm and continue on Wednesdays for 8 weeks.
 - j. Monkton Town Meeting 2/28/26 at 10:00am at the MCS. MCC will share a table in the hallway with ANAC to acquaint the community with MCC projects. Displayed will be Birding kits available to take out from the Russell Memorial Library, Parsnip Predators, Buckthorn Uprooters, MCC Brochures, and a Monkton map showing wildlife sightings. MCC members will be available to answer questions.
5. Ann made the motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm; Debra seconded. Passed (5-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Schwarz