

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday September 27, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:01 pm.

Members in attendance: Stephen Pilcher (chair), Marikate Kelley, Paul Low, Bill Martin, John McNerney

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Renee McGuinness, Scott Johnson, Heather Bessette, Joshua Sherman, Liz Webb, Anne Guillemette, Mark Guillemette

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bay State Elevator did an inspection and the contract is being reviewed to set up future inspections.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

APPROVE MINUTES

**B. Martin moved to approve the minutes of September 13, 2022 as written.  
J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

**M. Kelley moved to approve AP 20912 in the amount of \$37,244.24.  
Seconded by J. McNerney. All voted in favor.  
B. Martin moved to approve AP 20920 in the amount of \$34,849.54.  
J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.  
M. Kelley moved to approve PR 20926 in the amount of \$10,837.37.  
J. McNerney seconded. All voted in favor.**

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.  
none

PUBLIC COMMENT

R. McGuinness spoke about Article 22. She would like voters to be aware of issues surrounding the article.  
M. Guillemette wanted to let the Selectboard know about his concerns with runoff from an adjoining landowner. He believes the DRB ignored his concerns as an abutting landowner during a subdivision hearing and allowed the applicant to make changes which affected the Guillemette property. The runoff is making a mess and washing away the land. He would like to get the property reappraised.  
S. Pilcher said grieving taxes happens in the spring and explained the process.

The next step is the board of civil authority. There is a townwide reappraisal going on now and for the next 2 years. M. Guillemette said he was told a town official told someone that his road was a public right of way. He has been harassed with flashlights in his windows and individuals making rude gestures. J. McNerney asked about the right-of-way question. M. Guillemette asked if Twin Maple Road was private? S. Pilcher said it was private and to call the Addison County Sheriff for enforcement. J. McNerney asked if the complaint was that the development caused a change to the water flow? M. Guillemette answered yes. He had concerns about how the DRB handled the development and ignored the rights of neighboring landowners.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**APPOINTMENT TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Janet Schwarz sent in a letter of interest and she has attended meetings. She has experience on the Charlotte Conservation Commission and in related areas.

**J. McNerney moved to appoint Janet Schwarz to the Conservation Commission for the remainder of a term expiring March of 2026. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.**

**BOY SCOUT PROJECT - FLAG DISPOSAL**

J. Sherman of Bristol Troop 543 wanted to place a flag box outside at the Monkton Town Hall. The purpose of the box is to hold retired flags for a once a year ceremonial burning. The boxes are designed to be outside. He assured the Select board that the troop would continue to check the box regularly. J.

**McNerney moved to approve siting of a flag disposal box at the Monkton Town Hall. B. Martin seconded. All voted in favor.**

**LANDSCAPING AT NEW TOWN OFFICES**

H. Bessette said that the property at the town hall is too big for volunteers to manage. L. Webb said property maintenance would take a day in the spring and 4 hours a month for 6 months or so to the end of the season. The Monkton Pollinator crew will take care of the wildflowers in the spring. A cost of \$3000 per year was given as a rough estimate. S. Pilcher asked for their involvement in developing a line item for the budget during the board's upcoming budget process for the coming year. S. Pilcher said the pollinator garden was beautiful, but some of the woody landscaping got inundated by those plants. L. Webb said that was unintentional; wind pushed those seeds around. P. Low asked if some volunteer effort could continue going forward to help reduce costs? H. Bessette said that volunteers have dropped away. M. Kelley thanked L. Webb and H. Bessette for their work. She asked if they could come up with a management plan. S. Pilcher asked if there was a plan to place a plaque to recognize Jerry Urban and John Phillips? H. Bessette said there will be some work there. J. McNerney recognized the challenges of relying on and organizing volunteers.

**MAPLE LANE CURB CUTS**

S. Johnson met with S. Lawrence and B. Wahl and they worked on the curb cut for his property. He placed new stakes. He is interested in having safer access to his house. B. Martin thinks the curb cuts in this area need to go back to the DRB because of restrictions they had previously set. S. Johnson said the Maple Lane neighbors will be dissolving the road maintenance agreement. S. Pilcher said he would check with the DRB as to whether they wish to be involved. Paul Low offered to make the site visit on behalf of the Select board. Depending on DRB action, this could be back to the Select Board for a decision at our next meeting

#### VILLAGE DISTRICT DESIGNATION

S. Pilcher explained some changes to the village district boundaries and hoped to have a completed application before the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community in November. J. McNerney asked if there were thoughts of including Monkton Boro in a village district designation at some point. S. Pilcher indicated that this could be done, but would be a separate project in the future.

#### LISTERS / ASSESSOR - POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSOR

S. Pilcher said there is a person from NEMRC doing all the lister's work for Monkton for now. M. Kelly asked about the question of assessor vs lister going before voters.

#### UNIFIED PLANNING DOCUMENT DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION

S. Pilcher asked if the Board would like to keep going on the document, or approve it as written? It would go before the voters in March. J. McNerney thought some things could still be worked on, including the DRB concerns brought up at a previous meeting, and issues raised in letters and in testimony by Laura Farrell and others relating to the Ridge Line District. S. Pilcher said he could pull all the changes together. The Board will continue working on it.

#### BEAVER FUND AND PUBLIC RECORD REQUEST

B. Joos wanted to know what to do with a beaver deceiver donation to the town? The town is a 501(c)(3) and having many small fund collections is complicated. The town needs to be careful what they receive donations for. S. Pilcher satisfied the request for public record from Protect Our Wildlife.

#### FACILITY USE REQUESTS

There was a request from the Monkton PTO for a monthly meeting on Wednesdays from 6:45-8:30pm. B. Martin expressed concerns about the repetition monopolizing use of the facility. J. McNerney asked how many meetings should one group be allowed to book in advance. The Board discussed the complications of managing the community room. **M. Kelley moved to give P. Low authority to give community room use authorization with the following guidance: 1) an organization should try to use its own facility, 2) three months of community room use may be booked at a time for repeating meetings, 3) repeating meetings can be bumped with a one month notice, and 4) existing policy. J. McNerney seconded.** P. Low said that if alcohol is involved it will come before the board. The board encouraged Paul to bring a

request to the board if there was concern about use of the facility, as we are still working to understand what works and develop the policy. **All voted in favor.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON**

no action taken. This is still on the state's radar.

**1859 TOWN HALL STATUS**

S. Pilcher said the possibility of a REDI grant will not happen until there is a solid plan for the future of the town hall. J. McNerney asked if anyone or any group has stepped forward indicating an interest to take on responsibility for the building. It has been an ongoing question. S. Pilcher replied that there has not, and said the issue may come before the voters during town meeting. There will be an article in a future Addison Independent about the old town hall. Marikate asked if there was any reason that the RML building was not on the market. S. Pilcher said that while B. VonBruns has signed the Quit Claim Deed and affidavit declaring that he was the only heir and appointee for the building, there still is an open question as to whether B. VonBruns will ask for compensation from the Town for the Quit Claim deed.

**ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS**

S. Pilcher proposed that next meeting the Board members come in with their completed score cards to start sorting through the proposals. The score card numbers are only a part of the final determination for choosing projects worthy of funding.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ROSCOE ROAD**

There was a complaint about Roscoe Road; S. Pilcher drove it and said it looked good. There was a discussion about town roads versus private roads. Some sections may need to be "thrown up" or abandoned.

J. McNerney said some things have been brought before the Board that had nothing to do with the town. At some point it may be important to draw the line. There was a question as to whether the town health officer may need to be involved with a property. Do town officials have a responsibility to bring issues of concern forward? M. Kelley said there is no mandatory reporting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7pm.

**M. Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57pm. All voted in favor.**

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.