

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday December 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Pilcher at 7:00 pm.

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

Members absent: none

Others in attendance: Jessica Demeritt (recording secretary), Stan Wilbur, Jane Palmer, Robin Hopps, Laura Farrell, Jaime Schulte, Debra Sprague, Dawn Vukas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

none

REGULAR BUSINESS:

APPROVE MINUTES

J. McNerney moved to approve the minutes of December 6, 2022 as written. M. Kelley seconded. All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS

J. McNerney moved to approve AP 21207 in the amount of \$39,926.54. Seconded by M. Kelley . All voted in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS, ETC.

none

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

NEW BUSINESS:

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER UPDATE

D. Vukas was asking for guidance on the requirements of serving as the Monkton animal control officer. She said Waitsfield calls their person a dog warden instead of an animal control officer. She thought it might clarify what her work requires, what work the town offers. S. Pilcher asked how D. Vukas was contacted by town citizens. The town used to have phones for the ACO. J. McNerney said Google offered an option to send calls to a personal phone and it would be cheaper than a cell phone. D. Vukas said people responded best to text messages. S. Pilcher said if D. Vukas used her own cell, the town should offer a stipend to support that use. D. Vukas asked what to do about cats? S. Pilcher said Homeward Bound

could be the referral for that. S. Pilcher said D. Vukas is the enforcement officer for the dog ordinance. D. Vukas is getting calls about dogs that do not have proper housing. S. Pilcher thought that could be referred to the Sheriff, or Homeward Bound. D. Vukas was concerned about safety for dogs without food, water, or warm shelter. She wanted clarity about how to handle those situations. M. Kelley said working with the humane society and the sheriff should be resources. J. Palmer said just letting people know that others are watching might be enough to motivate dog owners to do something different.

APPROVE LISTERS ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

no action taken

2023 HEALTH PLANS

no action taken

UNIFIED PLANNING DOCUMENT REVIEW

The Selectboard made several changes to the UPD last meeting. The changes were reviewed. S. Pilcher wondered about erosion control, and discussed state permit and conditional use.

L. Farrell said getting definitions about wildlife corridors in the UPD will create a point of reference for future discussions. Vermont Natural Resource Council provided language. M. Kelley said if the definitions are untethered it doesn't make sense to add them. They could be added in another update. P. Low asks without the maps, how will this work? J. McNerney noted that the town plan and the UPD don't work together yet to protect wildlife travel corridors. L. Farrell thought the new language would provide a guide. S. Pilcher pointed out there are no listed wildlife travel corridors at this time. J. McNerney said without language there is no means to protect them when a situation arises. The language allows input from the conservation commission or professionals while waiting for the mapping project to be completed and incorporated into the town plan and UPD. L. Farrell said this offers guidance where there is none right now. She is most concerned by the narrow thread of connectivity between the large forest blocks. S. Pilcher wanted to know where and how to put the language. J. McNerney suggested section 900, general planning and design standards. Language was added to the UPD to protect wildlife corridors in subdivisions. Wildlife Corridor was added to definitions. When the contracted mapping project is completed there will be better guidance.

The Zoning Administrator had questioned section 503. Conditional use approval by the DRB was removed for any accessory dwelling unit.

There was discussion about scheduling an informational meeting on the UPD at 6:15pm, and a hearing for 6:30pm on January 10, 2023.

J. McNerney moved to adopt the Universal Planning Document for the town of Monkton as revised. P. Low seconded. All voted in favor.

INSURANCE CLAIM RE: TREE ON MONKTON ROAD

S. Pilcher had not received any further information. **J. McNerney moved to accept the current recommendation of the insurance adjuster regarding the tree on Monkton Road. P. Low seconded. The motion passed 3-0-1. M. Kelley abstained.**

DOG BITE HOLLOW ROAD

R. Hopps, the Monkton health officer, said she and the dog warden are working out how to coordinate working together. R. Hopps said she gets called by the hospital in the case of dog bites because of rabies concerns. S. Pilcher said the Selectboard is determining whether there is enough evidence to hold a vicious dog hearing and based on the report, it appears there is enough evidence. According to Vermont state law, a vicious dog hearing must be held within 7 days of notification. R. Hopps was unable to determine rabies certification. The sheriff has been unable to get the information either. There is currently no rabies certification because the information is incomplete; the name of the clinic is required to determine validity of the rabies tag. J. Palmer said in the past the dog needed to be quarantined for 10 days to determine rabies infection. S. Pilcher asked if knowing that the dog was healthy at the moment was enough? J. Palmer said it was important for the dog owner to understand that things would escalate unless he complied. S. Pilcher said in a vicious dog hearing evidence gets presented from both parties to the Selectboard. There can be rebuttals, and then the Selectboard makes a ruling. The range of possibilities goes from doing nothing, to muzzling or confining the dog, to destroying the dog. S. Pilcher was clear that he thought no dog would be destroyed. **J. McNerney moved to hold a vicious dog hearing regarding the complaint by Taya Mahony on Friday, December 16 at 6pm at the Monkton town offices. P. Low seconded.** There was discussion on how to notify the dog owner, Scot Pike. **All voted in favor.**

ENERGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

no action taken

2023 BUDGET

There was discussion about working on the highway budget.

FACILITY USE REQUESTS

Facility use requests may be planned for a maximum of three months out. Town events take priority over repeating events.

S. Pilcher thought an in-person town meeting sounded likely. He would like to offer a hybrid meeting, but was unclear how to proceed regarding votes. M. Kelley said there might be statutes in place because of the pandemic.

OLD BUSINESS:

SALVAGE YARDS IN MONKTON

Clean up and progress is ongoing at one location.

1859 TOWN HALL STATUS

There was an open house on Saturday, December 10, by the Monkton Museum and Historical Society.

ARPA FUNDS STATUS / PROCESS

S. Pilcher said this will need to wait until after the budget is finalized. There was discussion about the fire department request. S. Pilcher noted that Chester had received a FEMA grant to buy a tanker for the fire department.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 7pm.

J. McNerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. All voted in favor.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Jessica Demeritt.