

**Town of Monkton  
Conservation Commission  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, March 20th, 2023 7:00pm  
Meeting via Zoom/Phone**

**Members Present:** Ann Johnston Miller (Chair), Nancy Wilson (Vice-Chair), Debra Sprague (Treasurer), Jaime Schulte (Clerk), Janet Schwarz

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests Present:** Kesta Osborne, Sue Stasny

Ann called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**1) Public Comment**

- a) There was no public comment.

**2) Regular Business**

- a) Reviewed the Agenda
- b) Next Meetings:
  - (1) Monday, April 17th, 7:00pm, we will try to meet in-person in the Library.
  - (2) Monday, May 15th, 7:00pm
- c) Approve Minutes from February 20th and 27th
  - (1) **Debra moved to accept the minutes of February 20th, 2023 as written. Nancy seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (5-0-0) in favor.**
  - (2) **Nancy moved to accept the minutes of February 27th, 2023 1:00pm as written. Ann seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (5-0-0) in favor.**
  - (3) **Jaime moved to accept the minutes of February 27th, 2023 6:30pm written. Nancy seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (5-0-0) in favor.**

**3) Guest Introduction**

- a) The committee members briefly introduced themselves.
- b) Sue Stasny - interested in regenerative practices. Looking forward to the work of the commission.
- c) Kesta Osborne - Monktonite for 35 years. Retired recently and has more time now for the commission.
- d) We explained the process for reaching out to the Selectboard to express interest in joining.

**4) Support for the Town Forest project**

- a) Jaime provided a brief overview of the project for Kesta and Sue. The Commission discussed the project and that the Town Forest Committee has invited a letter of support for the project to include with upcoming grant applications. Reviewed a draft letter of support.
- b) **Nancy moved to endorse the proposed Monkton Town Forest project as presented by the Town Forest Committee to the community and approve the letter of support for it from the Conservation Commission. Debra seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The vote was (5-0-0) in favor.**

**5) Discussion of a pollinator garden in Morse Park**

- a) Be The Change is looking to plant pollinator gardens in every town in Vermont (at no cost to the town). The idea of a pollinator garden in Morse Park was mentioned to two of the Recreation Committee members and they seemed supportive. Nancy will follow up and contact Rec to discuss.

**6) Update on the Morse Park Management Plan - meeting with Rec**

- a) Discussed the history of the project and the recent working session meeting between members of MCC and the Rec Committee. Jaime is working on a revision to the document based on our discussion and notes and will send that back to the working group.

- b) Discussed that our management focus for the field areas might be primarily about grassland birds, with pollinators as a compatible secondary focus (smaller areas).

**7) Monkton sightings map, promotion**

- a) Large easel-size map was obtained and was used at Town Meeting for the purpose of community members marking known wildlife crossings in town. This information will be combined with other sources to build our understanding of where active wildlife crossings are located in Monkton. The map is currently at the Town Hall. We will close out the paper map by about the end of April and transfer those sightings to the online Arrowwood map. Ann will follow up with Arrowwood to discuss that and our next project meeting.

**Adjournment**

- Jaime moved to adjourn. All were in favor (5-0-0). Adjourned at 8:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jaime Schulte  
Clerk