

**Monkton Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, 15th June 2023**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Hybrid meeting at Town Hall and via Zoom**  
(Approved: 27th September, 2023)

**Members Attending:** Laura Farrell (Chair), Susan Mahony (Vice Chair), Whitney Leighton (Clerk), Jaime Schulte, Steve Parren (Alternate), Debbie Houghton (Alternate).

**Members Absent:** John Mejia (Digital Czar)

**Guests:** John McNerney (Resident, Town Forest Committee, Selectboard)

(Susan joined the meeting at 7:30pm)

1) **Call to order** – Laura called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

John joined the meeting to register a public comment on the Monkton Town Forest proposal as a resident, not as a member of the Town Forest Committee or the Selectboard. John explained why he thought that if Monkton is going to have a Town Forest this parcel would be one of the best we could find in Monkton.

Although ANAC has not usually had a Public Comment item on our agendas it is our custom, and the expectation of open meetings, to entertain a reasonable amount of public comment if someone joins a meeting.

2) **Approve minutes of May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.**

- **Laura moved to approve the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and Whitney seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The minutes were approved unanimously (5-0-0).**
- **Debbie moved to approve the minutes from the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and Steve seconded.** There was no further discussion. **Minutes were approved (4-0-1) with Whitney abstaining as she was not present.**

3) **Updates:**

- Jaime provided a brief update on the ARPA mapping status.
- Laura reminded the committee that it is on track to end at 8:15pm
- Open meeting law: Jaime reviewed state policies for posting open meeting minutes and confirmed that we are complying. No concerns.
- Chris Ajello report – Steve reviewed the Chris Ajello report and shared his proposed changes with the committee for their consideration. **Jaime made a motion to amend the report adopting the 2 changes Steve proposed with posting to the website and include a synopsis on why the work was completed, and its objectives. Debbie seconded the motion.** There was no further discussion. **The motion was approved unanimously (5-0-0)**
- Raven Ridge: Susan was absent at this time, so the update was postponed until the next meeting.

4) **Organizational Meeting** - Committee roles, Alternates, Titles.

- Some of the members were absent so the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- Whitney prefers the title Clerk.

5) **Potential Town Forest Application (Project 2023A)**

- The committee reviewed the Site Visit Report for Proposed Monkton Town Forest. There was a brief discussion. Some changes were made to the report language.
- **Steve made a motion to accept the report as amended. Debbie seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The motion was passed unanimously (5-0-0).**
- Susan joined the meeting at this time (7:30pm)
- Discussion of ANA Funds for project 2023. Jaime stated that this project offers more to the public than a typical project on two fronts: conserving a variety of lands and the largest potential public access land.
- **Whitney made a motion to approve the Vermont Land Trust's application (Project 2023A) as written, and to request a public version suitable for submitting to the Selectboard (with the rare species information redacted, as they requested) for public review. Susan seconded.** There was no further discussion. **The motion was passed unanimously (6-0-0).**
- **Laura made a motion that we recommend to the Selectboard that up to \$45,000 be disbursed from the ANA fund in support of project 2023A, Monkton Town Forest application received from Vermont Land Trust on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2023, payable in one lump sum at closing. Susan seconded the motion.** There was no further discussion. **The motion was passed unanimously (6-0-0)**
- The committee collaborated on an email to the Selectboard making the above recommendations.

6) **Linehan and Close Party Planning**

- Will coordinate a weeknight or weekend in July. We'll work with Peter and Debbie on what would be fun and suitable from their perspective.
- Whitney will reach out to Linehans on what would work for them.

7) **Confirm date(s) and locations/zoom**

- July 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm, hybrid meeting at Town Hall
- August and September: Scheduling postponed.

8) **Adjournment**

- **Jaime made a motion to adjourn.** There was no discussion. **The motion was approved unanimously (6-0-0).**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Whitney Leighton**