

Monkton Agricultural & Natural Areas Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, 17th April 2024
6:30 pm
Monkton Town Hall
(Approved: TBD)

Members Attending: Laura Farrell (Chair), Susan Mahony (Vice Chair), Jaime Schulte, Steve Parren (Alternate), John Mejia (Digital Wizard), Debbie Houghton (Alternate).

Members Absent: None

Guests: Jessica Demeritt

Call to order – Laura called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

1) Approve minutes of February 7th meeting - postponed to next meeting

- Laura will obtain a copy of the DOC file from Whitney to make minor edits.

2) Updates:

- Meeting Logistics – establish monthly meeting time
 - Agreed on fourth Wednesdays at 6:30 monthly, starting in May. Jaime added it to the calendar.
- Town Forest Update - Jaime updated that the committee is doing a final round of fundraising, preparing to engage with the community on the management plan for the property, and working on a variety of remaining tasks. The actual acquisition of the property is still expected to happen in 2024 (second half of the year).
- Raven Ridge: parking, bobcat closure, conservation & rec - there was concern about too much foot traffic for the eclipse, but that seems to have been OK. The no parking signs were stolen recently, but 3 of them were recovered.
- Committee Roles - briefly discussed committee roles that will need to be filled. We will have an Organizational Meeting at our May meeting. We should have a full set of members by that time too.
- New member letter draft – status check - John to send to Laura

3) Celebration for the Linehans - Whitney & Laura will check in with the Linehans.

4) ANAC spring walk - Sunday, May 5th 9:30am, with alternate date of Saturday, May 11th. Will meet at Susan's house.

5) Planning for aggregate forest projects - Laura has begun developing a roadmap/playbook for how a forest conservation project works and the major steps involved. Jaime suggested turning that into a timeline project plan. The idea is to demystify the process for landowners and increase the committee's understanding of how to facilitate and support a project of that type. Jaime will start a template project plan from Laura's notes and we will test it with a less complex project (Linehan).

6) Other business -

- Jaime mentioned continuing to work on a 3-year plan of upcoming projects. There might be one more to add to what we already see on the horizon. Should align what is coming with existing funds to continue to refine the annual request for the ANA Fund.
- Debbie asked about the acronym sheet that Susan created. We will share it out.

7) Confirm date(s) and locations - Established recurring meetings on fourth Wednesdays at 6:30pm, starting May 22nd.

8) Review Minutes - Reviewed.

Adjournment - Jaime moved to adjourn. The motion carried (6-0-0). Adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jaime Schulte