

Town of Monkton Conservation Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday May 16, 2024

7:00pm Meeting via Zoom/Phone and in person

(Approved: August 22nd, 2024)

Members Present: Ann Johnston Miller (Chair), Nancy Wilson (Secretary), Debra Sprague (Treasurer), Janet Schwarz, Sue Stasny, Jaime Schulte

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: None

Call to Order - Ann called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

1) Regular Business—Jaime moved to accept the April 24th minutes and Debra seconded. Passed unanimously with one abstention (Nancy was not present at the meeting).

a) Reviewed Agenda

b) Public Comment –None

c) Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 18th. Going forward meetings will be at the town hall every third Tuesday, July 16th, August 22nd, etc.

2) Old Business

a) Morse Park- The Recreation Committee is thinking of constructing a disc golf course at Morse Park. There is not a lot of space but they would like to place four disc baskets on the soccer field and two across the field along the path on the east side. The conservation commission is concerned about disruption to nesting birds, specifically the bobolinks.

Sue, Jaime, and Jan have an update on the Morse Park Management Plan. The draft was closely analyzed. The Conservation Commission subcommittee has made some changes. The Conservation Commission is particularly concerned with a process for public input about ongoing changes to the park. Ann moves to accept the management plan as amended. Sue seconded. Passed unanimously. The subcommittee will send the plan to the Recreation Committee for their final review.

b) Town Forest update – UVM students have spent the year using the forest as a classroom and have submitted a great report about the area. The committee has been working on land issues and will be discussing specific uses soon.

d) Buckthorn-The last session was a success. The County Forester came. We will eradicate parsnip on Thursday the 20th, 7:00-8:30. There is another Buckthorn session Saturday May 18th from 9-11am.

New Business:

a) Middlebury College students have been working with students from Ripton Elementary School to lend stop motion cameras that the students can take home to photograph wildlife. Ann and Debra will go to a meeting about it to see if it's a project we could do in Monkton.

b) Jan has spoken to Lisa, the public librarian, who wonders if we would like to collaborate on a Storywalk. The committee would be interested.

Adjournment - Ann moved to adjourn. Debra seconded. All were in favor. Adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wilson, Secretary