

Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 12, 2025

7:00 pm Hybrid Meeting – Library Room and via Zoom

(Approved: TBD)

Members Present: Ann Johnston Miller (Co-Chair), Sue Stasny (Co-Chair), Debra Sprague (Treasurer), David Moore, Janet Schwarz, Jaime Schulte,

Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Chris Slesar, Steve Parren, Bev Soyчук

Call to Order - Ann called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Jan took the minutes tonight.

1. Regular Business

- a. Review Agenda - no changes made
- b. Public Comment - none offered
- c. Review meeting minutes of May 8, 2025
 1. Debra moved to approve the minutes of May 8, 2025 as written. Sue seconded. All were in favor (6-0-0).
- d. Set Regular meetings:
 1. Thursday, July 10, 2025@ 6:30pm Hybrid; RML/Zoom
 2. Thursday, August 8, 2025 @ 6:30pm Hybrid; RML/Zoom

2. Other Business

- a. Amphibian crossing maintenance - **Steve Parren, Chris Slesar (VTrans)**
 1. Steve has been repairing walls (crumbling), with the most damage in the SW tunnel. Sealants used were epoxies. Steve said that SD Ireland did original work, so we should contact them about fixing 193 blocks (6ft each) of differing quality.
 2. Contact VT DOT, VT Fish & Wildlife
 3. Chris talked about the game cameras. He has a new one from DOT and the older one has gone 6 months w/o charging.
 4. It was discussed for MCC to include Laura Farrell (ANAC) and what the goal of another study could be. Possibilities could be: Repeating original study; Including mammals (in addition to amphibians) using the tunnels,
 5. MCC - Contact Jens Hilke re: analysis software
 6. Cameras In both tunnels; Jens, Laura, Chris, MCC will visit cameras and discuss plans - date TBD
- b. Kate Kelly (LCA) water quality presentation - June 30, 2025 7:00pm Monkton Town Hall
- c. Native plant survey- Heather Huminski of the Native Plant Trust (NPT) wants permission to study the Pond Brook drainage area for rare Lady's Slipper

Orchids purported to be in the vicinity. MCC would like to be part of the site survey, if possible, and will coordinate with the NPT to set a date, time, and meeting point.

- d. Bobolink project - Sue has been in contact with Hyla Howe, received a contract for the MCC to participate, and will contact the Monkton Recreation Committee and Stan Wilbur for signatures.
 - e. Parsnip removal schedule - Wednesdays at 7:00pm during June and July. Meet at the MCS lower parking lot, or Morse Park pavilion.
 - f. Community Radio - subcommittee update - David and Jan met and discussed getting other towns' Conservation Commissions to participate in a monthly 30 - 45-minute program of interviews, town conservation projects, etc. Jan and David will contact Conservation Commissions from the 4 towns in the Mt Abe School District + Lincoln, and will try to meet with John Corcoran, the organizer of the Community Radio Station.
 - g. Beaver policy - update -
 1. **Bev Soychak** - VT Beaver Association; She's testified in VT legislature; has volunteered to help MCC with Beaver Management Plan / Beaver environment. She gave us an overview of her organization's function.
 2. **VT Beaver Association** (website) In the Hollow Rd swamp - 3 Beaver Deceivers. Bev works with Skip Lisle and offered insight into the 6 Beaver Deceivers in Monkton. There's a new Beaver Deceiver on Old Stage Rd - Beaver dam has been ripped out. Bev suggested that we involve Game Warden - Dale Whitlock.
 - h. AVCC mini grant update: Sue & Lisa (librarian) will put 3 backpacks together - Launch @ Monkton Strawberry Festival 6/22/25
 - i. Email responses - Jess Rubin 5/29/25 and Christine LaMar 6/10/25
 1. Ann will write an email to Jess Rubin regarding management of invasive flora adjacent to Ravens' Ridge (TNC)
 2. Ann will contact Christine LaMar regarding transplantation of "native" trees from her property to parks and public
3. Sue moved to adjourn. Jaime 2nded. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Schwarz