

**Town of Monkton  
Conservation Commission  
Minutes**

**Thursday, 3/12/26 - 6:30 PM**

Virtual meeting via zoom

Approved: TBD

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8024533800?pwd=QnlTb20weWwxTEhuSmZ2RENyR3ZzUT09>

Members: Ann Miller, Jaime Schulte, Debra Sprague, Janet Schwarz, Sue Stasny, David Moore

Guests: None

1. Ann called the meeting to order @ 6:34 pm
2. Public comments - None
3. Regular Business
  - a. Reviewed Agenda and Debra added under Other Business - "Catamount Conversation" on 3/27/26.
  - b. Reviewed minutes 3/12/26; Sue made a motion to accept; Debra 2nd; Passed (6-0-0).
  - c. April meeting set for Thursday, 4/16/26 @ 6:30pm via Zoom
  - d. May meeting set for Thursday, 5/14/26 @ 6:30pm via zoom.
4. Other Business
  - a. Pond Brook Management Plan -
    - i. Sue, Jaime, and Ann are working on the cleanup and reorganization stage of the draft.
    - ii. Sue contacted Adam Piper (VLT) to let him know that the MCC is involved.
    - iii. The subcommittee needs to decide when the MCC part of the plan will be completed to be sent back to Adam Piper (VLT) and Laura Farrell.
  - b. Amphibian Crossing
    - i. When the new Monkton Treasurer is hired, Jaime will pursue getting reimbursed from the MCC budget or any funds remaining in the original Amphibian crossing budget.
    - ii. Jan has connected with Laura Farrell and they will decide when to visit and assess the 2 cameras in both amphibian tunnels, and if the temperature is warm enough, insert the batteries and memory cards.

- iii. Sue contacted Bill Sayer (A. Johnson). He said that they weren't planning any sales. Sue thanked him, and we discussed contacting them again regarding alternative Conservation Easements. The advice from Bill Sayer (VLT) was to connect with property owners as a starting point.
- c. UVM Capstone project
  - i. UVM students are working on advertising plans and conservation education targeting youth groups
- d. DRB GoogleDoc form update,
  - i. Work still needs to be done on the GoogleDoc form.
  - ii. Jaime will ask for information regarding previous DRB submissions and decisions and then Sue will "practice" using the template to determine if past projects and the template information are "workable". Jan offered to help with the testing once the form is established.
- e. Community Radio - subcommittee update
  - i. David, Jan, and Jonathan Corcoran met online with representatives from the 5-Town Conservation Commissions on 3/10/26.
  - ii. Jonathan updated the group that the "Go Live" date is postponed until the tower location can be determined, but the group could begin programming which would then be streamed on the WVVT (Fireside Community Media) website (<https://wvvt.org/landing>).
  - iii. Recording kits (microphones, stands, amplifiers, headphones, and manuals) are with the Libraries in Lincoln and New Haven, and the Bristol Conservation Commission, with more to be distributed.
  - iv. Already some other towns' Conservation Commissions have been audiotaping Live programs in their respective towns.
  - v. The next subcommittee meeting is 5/12/26 @ 6:00pm online.
- f. Rodenticide - Act H-758
  - i. Debra reported on the status of the bill to limit dangerous rodenticides, which is currently in committee hearings and she emailed them a brief statement of support.
  - ii. Ann moved to approve Debra's emailed statement and Sue 2nd. Passed (6-0-0).

- g. Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) Tiny Grants.
  - i. AVCC has sent out a request to Conservation Commissions for proposals for their 2026 Tiny Grants.
  - ii. The MCC had received a 2025 mini-grant for three Bird-watching kits.
  - iii. There was discussion if the MCC wanted to submit a grant proposal to AVCC this year.
  - iv. A possible project could be constructing Kestrel houses, other bird houses or bat houses.
  - v. David will try to determine costs and Jan will contact George Parker to see if the Monkton Boy Scouts are interested in participating.
  - vi. Debra and Ann will pursue writing the Tiny Grant proposal, based on last year's one submitted by Sue, and cost estimates determined by David. Its due date to the AVCC is April 11, 2026.
  
- h. Upcoming classes, courses, meetings
  - i. Jan discussed the online Forest Pest First Detectors course facilitated by Ginger Nickerson of UVM Extension.
  - ii. The course will begin on Wednesday, 3/11/25 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm and continue on Wednesdays for 8 weeks.  
(<https://go.uvm.edu/fd>)
  
- i. ACRPC
  - i. They have been co-hosting the AVCC four-part "Listening Sessions" throughout Addison County regarding Act 59 and the proposed Vermont Conservation Plan.
  - ii. Part 3, concerning Strengthening Climate Resilience, will occur on 3/25/26 at 7:00 pm in the Community Room at the Monkton Town Hall.
  
- j. Monkton Planning Commission and Unified Planning Document.
  - i. Overlays should be used to determine natural areas, wildlife corridors, watersheds, vernal pools, forest blocks, endangered species, viewsheds.
  - ii. Rules need to be written and enforced.
  
- k. Catamount "Conversation" program
  - i. Friday, March 27 at 7:00pm at the Library or Town Hall Community Room
  - ii. Debra will contact Katherine to see if there is any cost involved.
  - iii. Baked goods will be welcomed.

- iv. Sue made a motion that the MCC co-sponsor the program with the Russell Memorial Library with funding up to \$200. Debra seconded; Approved (6-0-0)
5. Debra made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Jaime seconded. Passed (6-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janet Schwarz