

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

Thursday, 4/16/26 - 6:30 PM

Virtual meeting via zoom

Approved: TBD

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8024533800?pwd=QnITb20weWwxTEhuSmZ2RENyR3ZzUT09>

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

Guests: Chuck Soule

*** Meeting delayed due to Host unable to Sign into Zoom; ultimately fixed when Jaime contacted a Monkton Selectboard member and obtained the new Zoom Password.

1. Ann called the meeting to order @ 7:05 pm
2. Public comments - Ann introduced Chuck Soule, who is considering joining the Monkton Conservation Commission.
3. Regular Business
 - a. Reviewed Agenda and Debra added under Other Business - "Bear Baiting".
 - b. Reviewed minutes 3/12/26; Jaime made a motion to accept; Debra 2nd; Passed (6-0-0).
 - c. May meeting set for Thursday, 5/14/26 @ 6:30pm via Zoom
 - d. June meeting set for Thursday, 6/11/26 @ 6:30pm via zoom.
4. Other Business
 - a. Pond Brook Management Plan -
 - i. The draft of the Plan remains on hold. Jaime resigned from the Management Draft Sub-committee. Sue confirmed that the working plan exists on the MCC Google Drive, but not all MCC members have access to that Drive. She will email members to see if anyone is interested in volunteering to be on the sub-committee.
 - ii. The possibility of 2 documents was discussed – a technical one for Wildlife and Natural Resources professionals and another for the general public.
 - iii. It was discussed that Adam Piper (VLT) be involved in future conservations about the Pond Brook Management Plan.

- b. Amphibian Crossing
 - i. Jan connected with Laura Farrell and they replaced the inoperable camera with the new wildlife camera from Chris Slesar. They also replaced the batteries in both cameras in the amphibian tunnels, and exchanged SD Memory cards. Laura will be writing up a procedure for the maintenance of the cameras to be assumed by the Monkton Conservation Commission.
 - ii. There was a discussion about any reporting obligations and the possibility of monitoring other wildlife species. Sue will ask Kate Kelley about tracking other wildlife species and the possibility of a future grant to explore options.
 - iii. Alternative Conservation Easements and approaching the landowners were discussed.

- c. UVM Capstone project
 - i. UVM students are working on final stages of their advertising plans and conservation education targeting youth groups.
 - ii. UVM students asked for a Google Form for Sign-ups for people to participate in controlling invasives.
 - iii. The Closing meeting of the class (NR4060) is at UVM on April 29th, which Sue will attend.

- d. Invasives Control gatherings.
 - i. Buckthorn "Battles" - Saturdays, 5/9/26 and 5/23/26 behind the Monkton Central School at 9 am.
 - ii. "Wild Parsnip Parties"- Morse Park and the baseball field with tentative dates being Friday, 6/12/26, Thursday, 6/18/26, Thursday, 6/25/26, Thursday, 7/2/26, and Thursday, July 2nd.
 - iii. Sue said that the UVM students had contacted local groups including the Boy Scouts for volunteer help, and that a sign-up sheet would be created once the dates were confirmed.

- e. DRB - GoogleDoc form update
 - i. Work still needs to be done on the GoogleDoc form.
 - ii. There was a recent beaver dam failure that caused damage on Owl's Mountain Road, which could potentially impact future DRB considerations, including an upcoming subdivision.

- f. Community Radio - subcommittee update
 - i. Jan contacted Jane Lindholm to see if she would share her tips for interviewing; Jan and David will meet with her in the near future.

- ii. The subcommittee will meet with the 5-town Conservation Commission delegates on Tuesday, May 12th at 6pm via Teams.
- g. Rodenticide - Act H-758
 - i. There will be a program at Charlotte Senior Center on Saturday 4/18/26 from 2-3pm, sponsored by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) and Charlotte Conservation Commission.
 - ii. There was discussion whether Act H-758 would make it out of Committee and sent to the Vermont Legislature this year. The MCC will send a message to the Vermont Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry in support of the Act to prohibit the sale and use of anti-coagulant Rodenticides (AR).
- h. Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) Tiny Grants.
 - i. The MCC had received a 2025 mini-grant for three Bird-watching kits, and Sue was going to write up a report to the AVCC, after conferring with the RML librarian, Catherine Goldsmith.
 - ii. There was a discussion about the MCC submitting a grant proposal to AVCC this year (2026). A possible project could be constructing Kestrel houses, other bird houses or bat houses.
 - iii. Debra, with assistance from Sue's 2025 Tiny Grant proposal, agreed to send a Tiny Grant proposal to the AVCC to fund a MCC program building bird houses.
 - iv. Bird Houses from kits could be built at the Strawberry Festival with the Boy Scouts assisting. Jan had already contacted George Parker (the Boy Scout assistant leader) and George responded that they'd be interested in helping with the project and to contact him when more information became available.
- i. Bear Baiting
 - i. There is currently a petition before the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board to allow the hunting of black bears using bait (human food items - peanut butter, donuts, candy, etc.). The environmental and behavioral impacts involved in bear baiting for both humans and bears were discussed.
 - ii. Debra Sprague sent her support to ban Bear Baiting to the various Agency of Natural Resources County Fish and Wildlife Boards.

- j. ACRPC
 - i. Debra reported the ACRPC (Adam and Hannah) were asked to create a revised map showing forest blocks and connectors to be presented at the next Monkton Planning Commission meeting.

- k. Monkton Planning Commission and Unified Planning Document.
 - i. Act 181 and the various parts that members of the VT State Legislature have talked about repealing was discussed.
 - ii. There was consideration regarding the current map appearing overly restrictive to property owners.
 - iii. MPC next meeting on Tuesday, 4/21/26.

- l. Membership
 - i. Chuck Soule attended the meeting as a possible new member. He will contact the Monkton Selectboard to indicate his interest in the MCC "open" seat..

5. Debra made the motion to adjourn at 8:18 pm. Sue seconded. Passed (6-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Schwarz