

**Town of Monkton
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

Thursday, 5/14/26 - 6:30 PM

Virtual meeting via zoom

Approved: TBD

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84935177842?pwd=NjJOUUIzNWZKbFB0TElwWHhHL2cyZz09>

Members: Ann Miller, Jaime Schulte, Debra Sprague, Sue Stasney, Janet Schwarz (6:42), Chuck Soule (6:37)

Guests: None

1. Ann called the meeting to order @ 7:05 pm
2. Public comments
3. Regular Business
 - a. Reviewed Agenda; added Invasive Species workdays, potential speaker series, and letter from A. Johnson regarding wetlands boardwalks.
 - b. Reviewed minutes of 4/16/26; Jaime made a motion to accept as amended; Debra 2nd; Passed as amended.
 - c. June meeting set for Thursday, 6/11/26 @ 6:30pm via Zoom
 - d. July meeting set for Thursday, 7/14/26 @ 6:30pm via zoom. Beginning with the July 14th meeting, all subsequent MCC meetings will occur on the second Tuesday of each month.
4. Other Business
 - a. Pond Brook Management Plan -
 - i. Ann and Sue will continue working on the plan and meet with Laura Farrell.
 - b. Amphibian Crossing
 - i. Jan met 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.
 - ii. Laura will be writing up a procedure for the maintenance of the cameras to be assumed by the Monkton Conservation Commission.

- iii. We need a plan for where (external hard drive) the pictures will be downloaded and information from Laura Farrell on the process and analysis of the pictures.
- c. Speaker Series
- i. Chuck will work on lining up some speakers for a series of community winter programs at the Monkton Town Hall, possibly in collaboration with area Conservation Commissions.
- d. UVM Capstone project
- i. Sue met online with the students at the conclusion of their Capstone Project on April 29, 2026.
 - ii. They discussed how to change community values regarding invasive species and make it a community event similar to Green-Up Day.
- e. Invasives Control gatherings.
- i. We need to have the sessions publicised on FPF and the Monkton Community Facebook page. Also on the Monkton Town calendar.
 - ii. Buckthorn "Battles" - Saturdays, 5/9/26 and 5/23/26 behind the Monkton Central School at 10 am.
 - iii. "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.
 - iv. Sue said that the UVM students had contacted local groups including the Boy Scouts for volunteer help, and that a sign-up sheet has been created.
 - v. Providing drinks and snacks was discussed.
 - vi. We will be inviting members of other Monkton committees and commissions to join us for a work session or two; (Sue - Recreation Committee, Jaime - Town Forest Committee, Debra - Planning Commission).
- f. DRB - GoogleDoc form update
- i. No progress yet on the form. The plan is to complete the form by our July meeting for future development projects.
 - ii. Jaime described some roadwork happening on Lovers Lane, adjacent to the southern edge of the Monkton Town Forest off Hardscrabble Rd. Related water levels in the pond would need to temporarily be adjusted to facilitate the roadwork. There was discussion whether the MCC would want to be involved in an advisory capacity with these types of projects.

- g. MPC - UPD
 - i. Sue talked about the Planning Commission's work on maps and zoning districts. The MPC would like MCC to weigh in on mitigation approaches for Natural Heritage aspects of the districts and maps.
 - ii. The MCC needs to define what it will focus on with the Vermont State Statutes' definition of a Conservation Commission.

- h. Community Radio - subcommittee update
 - i. The subcommittee will meet with the 5-town Conservation Commission delegates on Tuesday, May 19th at 6pm via Teams.

- i. Rodenticide - Act H-758
 - i. There was a program at Charlotte Senior Center on Saturday 4/18/26 sponsored by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) and Charlotte Conservation Commission. The use of rodenticides was described as a short-term reduction of rodents that also then poisoned raptors, thereby ending with long-term harm to rodent control.
 - ii. There was discussion whether Act H-758 would make it out of Committee and sent to the Vermont Legislature this year.

- j. Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) Tiny Grants.
 - i. The birdhouse building project will get into more depth if the MCC is awarded a 2026 Tiny Grant.

5. Sue made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Jaime seconded. Passed (6-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Jaime Schulte and Janet Schwarz