

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall Community Room & via Zoom
Approved: July 15, 2026

Members: Jaime Schulte (Chair), John McNerney, Molly Parren (Minutes Taker), CJ Buzzy (Treasurer), Jessica Demeritt (Clerk)

Members Not Present: Callie Brynn (Vice Chair), Cassandra Corcoran

Guests: None

Call to order- Jaime called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, with 5 members present.

1. Regular business

a. Determine quorum; Review Agenda; Announcements

b. Public Comment (guests): up to 10 minutes

- None

c. Review Minutes: May 21

- Jess moved to approve the minutes from 5/21/2026 as amended, John seconded. There was no further discussion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

d. Meetings - confirm upcoming 3rd Wednesdays: July 15, Aug 19

2. New Business

a. Recommendations & requests

- None

3. Proposed and routine work (7:15pm)

a. Hardscrabble roadwork & MTF parking cost share

- Jaime and John attended a site visit to the three proposed parking locations along Hardscrabble Rd with Sam Peisch and Joe Szarejko of the Selectboard and the road foreman, Trevor Currier. No one expressed concerns about the proposed parking and spaces were marked out.
- It was agreed that if materials were purchased using the MTF Management Fund, the town crew would do the work aside from some vegetation clearing, which Jaime and John have started. At their most recent meeting, the Selectboard discussed and seemed fine with the cost share idea but did not do a formal vote.
- John and Jaime also met with neighbors Glen and Kim Jewell, and they are okay with the proposed parking near their property.
- John moved to approve use of the MTF Management Fund for purchase of materials for "Central Park" and the Fire Pond parking areas (parking locations 1 and 2). Jaime seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

- The town does not need curb-cut permits for our proposed parking according to VLCT. These parking areas are also okay according to Zapata's wetland visit back in 2023.

b. Old Lovers Lane (Town Highway 36) roadwork & water levels

- John spoke with Tyler Cote who said he talked to an excavator who will put in a new culvert under OLL and Skip said he would put in a beaver deceiver after. There may be some grant funding available for the beaver deceiver. Tyler will attend the next Selectboard meeting to request approval for work. Sam has asked Trevor and Joe to check the location so the Selectboard can give approval during the meeting.
- John has spoken to VLCT about putting a gate on OLL (after the Mansfield's house). It sounds like it would be better to downgrade to a legal trail vs Class 4 road if the intent is to keep it closed year road. Landowners can add an unlocked gate, but it is unclear if the town can add a locked gate. We are still figuring this out. VFF said it would provide a gate.

c. Boundary/trail marking, kiosks, parking/access, connector trail, gates, Trash/debris removal

- Callie and Cass were looking into signs and are hopefully making progress on that. Jaime, John, and CJ were looking into posts for kiosks. This has taken a back seat with the parking project but will be the next priority after parking on Hardscrabble is completed. Same with the connector trail.
- There was discussion about whether there could be a gate near Central Park and where that would be placed. For now, we may need signs about no ATVs or dirtbikes at that entrance given obvious signs of use.

d. Invasives management

- We continue to keep an eye out for invasives and are aware the Japanese Knotweed is nearby and will likely reach the property in the near future.

e. Kaolin Dam status

- John emailed dam safety on 5/21 but never heard back; he sent a follow up today. Most recent dam inspection was in 2024 where it was determined to be at-risk but low hazard.
- The dam fee was paid in full through the Management Fund in March this year. This cost should come from the budget so we will need to move money accordingly. Future discussions about who pays the dam fee are needed.

4. Old Business (7:40pm)

a. Management Fund status; expense allocations

- CJ never heard back about the \$1000 fund discrepancy but will follow up.
- We don't know where trash reimbursements came from but they should be from the fund, not the budget. We will have to check that.

b. Policies: camera, volunteer, MOU Management Fund Use Policy

- CJ is working on the draft MOU for the Management Fund and will send that for review prior to the next meeting.

- CJ heard back from Richmond and Hinesburg about volunteer policies and neither town has a formal policy. Hinesburg said that Fellowship of the Wheel does most of their trail maintenance, but they had looked at having some sign off/certification for people who had taken game of logging. However, they are not sure that is enforceable. Both town committees seem to think that volunteers are covered under the town insurance policy. We may talk to Stan about whether we think this is true for Monkton.
- John took a picture at The Watershed Center of a sign about camera use in the area. Might be good to consider using something like this in the Monkton Town Forest. Molly did not get to the camera policy but will finalize it for next meeting.

c. Old Airport Road -

i. Town contribution for 2025, 2026; Road Maintenance Agreement

- No news about OAR and payment for 2025. We could pay the 2025 cost with the 2026 budget since the 2025 budget expired. Jaime has reached out to the OAR treasurer and is still waiting to hear back.

d. CWSP update

- Trails assessment: Fitzgerald Environmental Associated are working on their assessment tool and are going to do fieldwork this summer. They will reach out when they do the assessment, so we are aware.

e. Master Naturalist project follow-up

- No updates. We have not seen the QR code up at the Monkton Town Forest yet.

f. Federal grant final report

- No updates

g. Shared ROW

- No updates.

h. Grants/fundraising committee updates

- No updates. Jaime expressed interest in helping to look for future opportunities.

5. Upcoming Community Events - Strawberry Fest 6/28?; Outreach/web page

- No table at the Strawberry Festival this year. Maybe we will have one next year when there will be more updates.

6. Overview of MTFC Google Drive & Website spaces (time permitting) (8:15p)

- Looked at the drive to see where folders are, etc.

Adjournment

Jess moved to adjourn, Jaime seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0. Adjourned at 8:32pm.