

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall Community Room & via Zoom
Approved August 19, 2026

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

Members Not Present: Cassandra Corcoran

Guests: Robin Hopps, Scott Gustin (joined around 7:30 pm)

Call to Order- Jaime called the meeting to order at 7:02pm, with five members present. John joined at 7:08pm.

1. Regular business

a. Determine quorum; Review Agenda; Announcements

- No announcements

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

- No public present

c. Review Minutes: June 17

- Jess moved to approve the minutes from 6/17/2026 as written, Jaime seconded. There was no further discussion. Callie abstained and the vote passed 4-0-1. Callie abstained and John was not yet present.

d. Meetings - confirm upcoming 3rd Wednesdays: Aug 19, Sept 16

2. New Business

a. Recommendations & requests

- Nothing

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

a. Hardscrabble roadwork & MTF parking updates

- The road crew has started ditching on Hardscrabble and gotten most of the way to where fire pond parking is. Parking areas at the fire pond and "central park" are ready to go. Old Lovers Lane will be worked on later. Nothing for us to do right now. Might want to add something like boulders next to the gate across from the fire pond.

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

- The culvert was replaced on Old Lovers Lane (OLL) and a cage was added to the entrance. Jaime added stakes to gauge water levels by OLL and Central Park culverts. It appears as if the work involved taking more material from land to the north of OLL, west of the wetland. The bank there is collapsing so we will probably want to avoid doing that in the future.

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

- The committee discussed a potential trash removal in the fall near the new connector trail that members have been working on. However, getting the trail and kiosks done are our priorities but we want to express our intent to do this. We still need to work on finding posts for signs for entering/leaving the town forest.
- It appears as if the ridge trail to the east is frequently used by dirt bikes. However, there isn't any signage there so we should put something up to convey a message about allowed use, per the easement.
- Regarding a gate on OLL: VLCT said that a Selectboard can block a class 4 road, but it is typically temporary/seasonal. If we want to permanently gate OLL, it would be best to downgrade it to a legal trail. Eventually it would be good to permanently gate OLL if possible. For now, we like the idea of putting up a gate, not locking it, eventually downgrading the road, and then adding a lock.

d. Invasives management

- Some parsnip is growing along Old Airport Road and by the fire pond on Hardscrabble. Jaime will go get those plants this weekend. We have heard that there is possibly some Japanese Knotweed in the area; we will keep tabs on that.

e. Kaolin Dam status

- No updates. Callie reached out and left a message with Jackie in April/May about beaver deceiver and dam fee. We have not heard back.

4. Old Business (7:40pm)

a. Management Fund status; expense allocations

- The treasurer fixed the \$1000 donation for the Monkton Town Forest that was misallocated to the volunteer fire department.
- CJ will get another report from Kim of how the account looks now.

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

- CJ drafted an MOU for use of the Management Fund. The committee discussed adjusting some language given there are currently multiple names for the MTF fund. We also want to add language that makes it clear that this is not the fund that OAR expenses would come from. John also suggested adding language about how any income generated from MTF activities (e.g., timber sale) goes to this account.
- No new volunteer policy drafted yet.
- The committee reviewed the camera policy and made some edits to get approval at the next meeting.

c. Old Airport Road -

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

- Jaime connected with Joe about working on the Old Airport Road maintenance agreement but has not heard more in several weeks. The committee agrees that it is best to start from the last document that the Selectboard signed and make edits from there. The committee also agrees that the agreement should include a deadline for maintenance costs for reimbursement by the town.
- No progress on town contribution for maintenance for 2025.
- d. CWSP forest roads assessment update**
- No updates
- e. Master Naturalist project follow-up**
- (7:30-7:50pm) Scott and Robin spoke to us about their Master Naturalist project. The committee reviewed the webpage together, made a few suggested edits, and approved the placement of the QR codes on the kiosks once edits have been made. Note: The formatting from the website works on the phone.
- f. Federal grant final report**
- Nothing further
- g. Shared ROW**
- Nothing further
- h. Grants/fundraising committee updates**
- Nothing further
- 5. Upcoming Community Events - AVCC town forest webinar**
- The Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions is doing a series on town forests. Jaime reached out and volunteered to present on the Monkton Town Forest. Bob from VLT will join him. They will use the slides they made when presenting to the legislature. The presentation will be at the end of this month or next month.

Adjournment

Jess moved to adjourn, John seconded. The vote passed 6-0-0. Adjourned at 9:02pm