

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall Community Room & via Zoom
(draft)

Members: Jaime Schulte (Chair), Callie Brynn (Vice Chair), John McNerney, Molly Parren (Minutes Taker), Jessica Demeritt (Clerk), Cassandra Corcoran

Members Not Present: CJ Buzzy (Treasurer)

Guests: None

Call to order- Jaime called the meeting to order at 7:04pm, with 6 members present.

1. Regular business

a. Determine quorum; Review Agenda; Announcements

- None

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

- None

c. Review Minutes: July 15

- Jess moved to approve the minutes of 7/15/2026 as written, John seconded. There was no further discussion. The vote passed 6-0-0.

d. Meetings - confirm upcoming 3rd Wednesdays: Sept 16, Oct 21

2. New Business

a. Recommendations & requests

- None

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

a. Hardscrabble roadwork & MTF parking updates; ROW; gate

- The Monkton Road Crew has switched to working on Church Rd but will return to Hardscrabble soon. The parking area near the fire pond is ready for stone, as is the Central Park area given it is grass. We will have to decide how/whether we will plow these new gravel parking areas to avoid displacing too much gravel.
- John talked to Kim Jewell about giving up ROW by Central Park and she said to talk to Glen. We will pursue this further. We are still seeing a lot of traffic in this area, and it would be nice to have a locked gate to discourage motorized vehicles on the MTF.

b. Old Lovers Lane (Town Highway 36) work & water levels; gate

- The committee again discussed interest in adding a locked gate to OLL. Currently, a town can temporarily close a road but not permanently without downgrading to a legal trail.

- The work on OLL was completed, and water levels are consistent. Someone will reach out to Tyler Cote about a future beaver deceiver.

c. Boundary/trail marking; signage; kiosks

- Callie brought some signs from Caitlyn at VLT that we reviewed for ideas. These signs don't quite work for the MTF but we could model signs after them. We will need to reach out to VLT about it if we are going to include their logo on future signs. In the meantime, John will put up the VLT signs that say "Please no ATVs" on the ridge trail and by Central Park.
- The committee is interested in creating a logo for the MTF that we could put on future signs. Jess said she could talk to a family member about doing this.
- John and Jaime will find time to work on kiosks for trailheads. We will probably have two larger kiosks at OAR and fire pond and a smaller one by Central Park. We still need to figure out where the trailhead will be by Central Park.
- Jess is willing to look into designing signs for boundaries.

d. Connector trail layout/clearing; trail maintenance

- The committee agreed that we need to pursue trail marking, likely using little blazes. A subcommittee was formed to review what trails will be connected and marked using the same color to create a helpful map and add blazes to the trails. In the subcommittee are Callie, Jess, Cass.
- John added some stone to a wet area on the west side of MTF on a trail.
- The committee scheduled 9/5 as a day to do some trail clearing as we have vegetation encroaching in some areas

e. Trash/debris removal - fall session

- There is interest in doing another trash cleanup day in the fall, so we scheduled 10/24 for trash cleanup in the central area of MTF.

f. Invasives management

- Mostly good- some parsnip still.

g. Mowing - trails and approach to clearings

- Jaime has done two mowings so far and may do a third in early September.
- The committee discussed mowing one log landing each year to keep them open. Jaime mowed log landings in November last year. We should decide when to mow this year and which log landings to mow. Will likely happen in November.

h. Kaolin Dam status

- Nothing new. It would probably be good to cut trees on the dam this winter to be in compliance with dam safety.

4. Old Business (7:40pm)

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

- John moved to accept remote camera policy as written, Jess seconded. The vote passed 6-0-0. We now need to get the policy on our website.
- Nothing new for volunteer policy.

- The committee agreed that the MOU policy looked pretty good but still needs a little work. We will aim to approve it in the next meeting after some language is made a little more specific.

b. Old Airport Road -

i. Road Maintenance Agreement draft

- The Selectboard Chair, Sam Peisch, worked on a draft of a possible Road Maintenance Agreement with some input from Joe Szarejko. One of the goals was to make the agreement more accessible for people.
- The committee reviewed the draft and provided some feedback on this document. Jaime will give the committee's feedback to Sam.

ii. Town contributions for 2025 & 2026

- The committee is still waiting for a final figure for 2025 that everyone agrees on. We can use our 2026 budget to pay for 2025. In addition to a final figure, the "share" that the town will pay still needs to be determined. We overpaid in 2024 so that will be taken into account.

c. Quick updates: CWSP forest roads assessment, Master Naturalist project; AVCC town forest webinar;

- The forest road assessment happened a week or two ago. We have not heard anything more since then.
- The QR code for the Master Naturalist project is going up on signs soon.
- Jaime and Bob just shared the MTF acquisition story today in the AVCC webinar.

d. Management Fund status; expense allocations

- CJ was not at the meeting so there are no updates on some of these topics.
- The dam fees were fixed for the past two years.

5. Upcoming Community Events - trail maintenance day?

- Scheduled above

Adjournment

Jess moved to adjourn, Cass seconded. The vote passed 6-0-0. Adjourned at 9:01pm.