

Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 16, 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)

Members Not Present: Cassandra Corcoran, CJ Buzzy (Treasurer)

Guests: None

Call to order- Jaime called the meeting to order at 7:02pm, with 5 members present.

1. Regular business

a. Determine quorum; Review Agenda; Announcements

- There are new parking areas on Hardscrabble Rd and Jaime and John are working on a kiosk at OAR.

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

- None

c. Review Minutes: August 19

- John moved to approve the minutes of 8/19/2026 as written, Callie seconded. There was no further discussion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

d. Meetings - confirm upcoming 3rd Wednesdays: Oct 21, Nov 18

- Done

2. New Business (7:10pm)

a. Recommendations & Requests

i. Review requests for game cameras and hunting blinds

- Josh Morse would like to put out two cameras in the town forest- his proposed places and means of deployment match our camera policy. Benjamin Charboneau would like to place four cameras and two hunting blinds. He provided all information necessary and they matched our policies. Tom Charnley would also like to place a hunting blind, and his request followed the Management Plan policy.
 - John moved to approve the camera requests from both Josh and Benjamin, Jess seconded, the vote passed 5-0-0.
 - John moved to approve the hunting blind requests from both Benjamin and Tom, Jess seconded, the vote passed 5-0-0.
- Now that cameras have been approved, we will put signs on kiosks informing the public that cameras will be in use at the MTF.

ii. Process for reviewing educational/community event requests

- This came up because there is a bat walk led by Alyssa Bennett (VT Fish & Wildlife) that will occur at the Town Forest this Saturday. The request came in-between committee meetings.
- It would be good to have a subcommittee to approve requests in-between meetings so people don't have to wait weeks for approval.
 - Subcommittee: Jess Demeritt, Callie Brynn, and Jaime Schulte. They will inform the rest of the committee about any approvals.

iii. Motorized trail trimming

- Trevor (road foreman) proposed some members of the road crew riding the trails on ATVs and trimming the brush along paths as trail maintenance. While the committee appreciates the generous offer, we don't think there is a need for this kind of work at this time. However, we may have some other work that might require ATVs in the future. For example, we might be able to use some help with trash removal on 10/24. Jaime will follow up with Trevor.

3. Proposed and routine work (7:25pm)

a. Quick Updates:

i. Trail maintenance community event: Sept 5th report

- This event seemed to go well and would be a good annual event.

ii. Hardscrabble: roadwork & MTF parking areas

- Mentioned above- new parking areas now on Hardscrabble Rd.

iii. Old Lovers Lane: Deceiver/work & water levels

- Water has gone down 3 inches since culvert work occurred. This has fluctuated a little.

iv. Trash/debris removal - confirm October 24 from 9am-12pm

- Confirmed

v. Kaolin Dam status

- Beavers have piled mud pretty high at the fence. There isn't an issue yet but something we need to consider in the future. Maybe someone will reach out to Skip. Callie reached out and left a message for Jackie to check in about the dam fee and future work needed to meet dam safety standards.

b. Boundary/trail marking; signage; kiosks (7:35pm)

- There is progress being made on the kiosk at OAR. It now just needs a roof. The committee reviewed kiosk roof designs and discussed options. We plan to move forward with a single side pitch roof.
- We reviewed some blaze standards and discussed possible ways to color or number-code trails and intersections. Numbering intersections seems like a good idea. Might be best to start with a single main loop and work from there. The committee reviewed options for trails that could be paired and blazed as a loop. We will try to do that this fall.

- It would be good to add boundary markers when we add blazes. We also discussed boundary sign options.
 - c. Maintaining “existing” trails (as shown on the Mgmt Plan map)**
- We need to decide what trails we do want to maintain and what trails we might want to discourage use of that are not on the map. It would be helpful to get the Forest Road Assessment results before making these decisions as it will be informative.
- We plan to add more gravel to a wet spot in a trail that needs to be finished.
 - d. Plan a Connector Trail (between Hardscrabble and OAR) work day?**
- This should happen before cleanup day on 10/24 so people can access it easily. There should just be a couple of hours of work left on clearing the proposed trail. We might set up a day via email for people on the committee to help out.
 - e. Mowing: update on trails; plan for clearing(s)**
- Jaime has not been able to mow the trail but might try to do that in conjunction with clearings in November.
 - f. Approach to managing downed/hazard trees**
- There are downed and hazard trees that we need to deal with and we have to decide how to approach that. Do we donate wood to the wood bank? Committee seems to be in favor but a standard approach we follow would be good.
- 4. Old Business (8:00pm)**
 - a. Quick Updates: CWSP roads assessment; Management Fund status**
 - We have not heard about road assessment; Callie will follow up.
 - b. Policies: MOU Management Fund Use Policy; Volunteer**
 - Still needs to be done.
 - c. Old Airport Road: Road Agreement status; town share for 2025**
 - The proposed road agreement has been adjusted following the committee’s feedback. We are getting to a point where the agreement could be shared with OAR residents.
- 5. Community Events - bat walk 9/19 9am; trash removal 10/24 9am**
 - Confirmed

Adjournment

Jess moved to adjourn, Molly seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0. Adjourned at 9:27pm.