Town of Monkton
Town Forest Committee
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 7:00pm
Monkton Town Hall Community Room & via Zoom
Draft

Members: Jaime Schulte (Chair) via Zoom, Callie Brynn (Vice Chair), John McNerney, Molly Parren (Minutes Taker), CJ Buzzy (Treasurer), Jessica Demeritt (Clerk), Cassandra Corcoran
Members Not Present: None
Guests: None

Call to order- Jaime called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with 7 member present.

1. **Regular business**
    a. **Determine quorum; Review Agenda; Announcements**
- Done
    b. **Public Comment (guests): up to 10 minutes**
- None
    c. **Review Minutes: Sept 16**
- Jess moved to approve the minutes of 9/16/2026 as written, John seconded. There was no further discussion. The vote passed 6-0-1. CJ abstained.
    d. **Meetings - confirm upcoming 3rd Wednesdays: Nov 18, Dec 16**
- Confirmed
2. **New Business (7:10pm)**
    a. **Recommendations & Requests**
        i. **Review requests for game cameras and hunting blinds**
- Ryan Smith sent a request to set two to three cameras in MTF during the hunting season. We are currently at 6 cameras and 3 hunting blinds set in the MTF at this point. We need Ryan to confirm that he has read and understands the camera policy and will follow it. If he does that, the committee approves his request.
- In the future we may want to limit how many cameras each person can use in the MTF and maybe limit how many people have cameras.
- We have heard that there may be some unmarked cameras in the town forest, but we have not seen them from the forest roads despite Jaime looking.
- We are creating a subcommittee to review and approve camera requests- John and CJ will review requests but if one of them is not available, they will reach out to one other committee member to help review.
3. **Proposed and routine work (7:15pm)**
    a. **Quick Updates:**
        i. **Hardscrabble: roadwork & MTF parking area**

- We now have three parking areas along Hardscrabble Road that the road crew created as they worked on Hardscrabble Road. There are now two spots at the top of Old Lover's Lane. Next year we may want to resurface the Old Airport Rd parking area.

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

- Callie went to Old Lover's Lane and did not see any new beaver activity or change in water level. There is still no beaver baffle, just the new culvert.

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

- Likely to be a small group this Saturday We may move trash to the utility corridor which can then be retrieved with a tractor, potentially on a later date.

iv. Kaolin Dam status

- No updates. Callie reached out to Jackie again. There is a lot of mud around the beaver deceiver. It is still working at present but may require work down the line.

b. Boundary/trail marking; signage; kiosks (7:25pm)

- The kiosk is mostly done, it just needs the metal roof added. Dog leashes and safety vests are now available for visitors to borrow. Signs about camera usage are now up at all entry locations. We may want to flag trees we are considering for boundary marking and then we can use paint later in the season when all the leaves are down. Callie, Jess, and Cassandra set a date to go out and walk the trails together to flag potential trees for trail marking.
- There is good signage at the OAR and fire pond parking areas and there is a small sign at Central Park but there is nothing at the new location at OLL. We will likely want to add a sign at OLL at some point.
- We may want to get 911 numbers for all the different parking areas for the MTF. We will need to figure out if you can have more than one number for one property. CJ looked this up and it should be possible; we just need to communicate with the lister.

c. Trail maintenance / construction - Connector Trail work day?

- When we do the clean up day it would be good to have any committee members present to see where the connector trail might go and discuss future work.

d. Mowing - schedule for trails and clearings

- The committee looked at a map of the different clearings and discussed the best clearing to prioritize for mowing this year. Jaime and John can probably get equipment across the streams on the west side to get to those clearings to mow.

e. Management of fallen or hazard trees

- There are some big dead trees right next to the trails.

4. Old Business (7:50pm)

a. Quick Updates: CWSP roads assessment; Management Fund status

- We got the results from the CWSP roads assessment which the committee reviewed. Several areas were flagged as not meeting or only partially meeting clean water standards. Now that this assessment has been completed, we can hypothetically apply for funding for work on the sections that do not meet standards. CJ has a draft application for the ANR trails grant from last year that he can try to update with this information to apply for funding. Meeting with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission is probably the next step. John will join CJ for any meetings with the ACRPC. Callie looked up a past email that suggests that Fitzgerald Environmental Associates might apply for funding for identified sections that need improvement. This needs to be clarified.
- Need to figure out budget for next year. Jaime and CJ will come up with a draft for next meeting.

b. Policies: MOU Management Fund Use Policy; Volunteer

- It is important to move the MOU policy forward; CJ will revisit this.

c. Old Airport Road: Road Agreement status; town share for 2025

- Sam Peisch has been talking to residents on OAR about the Road Agreement and getting a wide range of opinions about what should be done with the road. Liability is one of the largest concerns.
- As it stands, the committee thinks that the town should plan to pay 1/8th of the costs for 2026 until a road agreement is put in place.
- The town paid about 70% of the 2024 costs after agreeing to 50% and has not paid anything for 2025 yet. The committee thinks that until a document has been signed, the town should pay 1/8th of costs from 2025 after subtracting the overage paid in 2024.

5. Community Events - report: bat walk on 9/19; trash removal 10/24 9am

- About 8-10 people attended the bat walk. Much of it occurred at the OAR parking lot but they walked out to the first clearing and talked about how clearings are good for bats as they create different habitats that support different insect communities for bats to forage on.
- The committee agrees that the Town Forest Management Fund should be used to reimburse people who take the trash removed from the town forest during cleanup day to the dump. John moved to approve reimbursement of any trash generated through the Town Forest Cleanup Day on 10/24 with the Town Forest Management Fund, CJ seconded. The vote passed 7-0-0.

Adjournment

Jess moved to adjourn, Cassandra seconded. The vote passed 7-0-0. Adjourned at 8:23 pm.