

Monroe Comprehensive Plan Committee

Minutes

April 16, 2026 6:00pm

Attendees: Lyndsey Marston, Eric Bunker, Ray Wirth, Kitty Wilkin, Rebecca Fee, Grace Johnston-Fennell.

Lyndsey called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Action Items:

1. Grace will continue to look into historic research.
2. Lyndsey will update the “moderate risk” shapefile.

Old Business:

A. Review/approve March meeting minutes:

Ray **made a motion** to approve the March minutes. Rebecca seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Updates on March Action items:

- a. Grace has not had much success with historical research. Kitty expressed an interest, and they will meet to discuss possible next steps.
- b. Lyndsey provided some updates on her action items:
 - i. Ryan Gordon with Maine Geological Survey (MGS) provided more information on what “moderate risk” is on the aquifer land use maps. Essentially, it’s a generic statement for any gravel pit above the water table that is located in a high-yield aquifer. Extensive pits and those below water table or with fuel storage would be considered “high risk.” Ryan also noted that the high-yield area was revised and expanded in 2014, so the area considered “moderate risk” in Monroe is actually larger than the map we have seen. Lyndsey will update the GIS maps to reflect this change. She also asked Ryan if MGS has any management recommendations for these “moderate risk” areas. He referred the Committee to the Town of Prospect Planning Board since MGS has given them advice on developing aquifer and land use ordinances. The emails are on the google drive.
 - ii. She attempted to quantify forest acreage by calculating the size of known GIS layers. There are 15.68 sq mi of wetlands, 11.87 sq mi of farmland, and 2.34 sq mi of impervious surfaces/developed areas. Subtracting these from the total town size (38.92 sq mi) gives us about 9 sq miles of forest, not including forested wetlands. This tells

us that ~30% of farmland is enrolled in current use, but the numbers don't translate well for tree growth due to the overlap of forested wetlands.

- iii. She also received responses from both the City of Bangor and the City of Belfast on how they protect their forests and parks. Bangor uses an ordinance tied to the zoning type and a management plan. Belfast uses several strategies, including land trust conservation easements, covenants, ordinances, and their comprehensive plan. The emails are on the google drive.

New Business:

A. Monroe Business List.

The Committee worked on the business list provided by the library, adding new businesses, removing old businesses or those not actually in Monroe, and making note of which businesses are known to have employees. Additions will continue to be made as Committee members are made aware of them. The list will be available at the next community meeting so people can make more edits or opt out if desired.

B. Next Steps:

The next meeting will focus on the Housing.

C. Other:

The Committee will draft an update on our work for the Town Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.