



Town of Mount Holly Planning Commission

Remote Electronic – Special Work Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 7, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice Chair), Stephen Michel,
Commission Members Absent: Lisa Terreri (Secretary), Brigid Sullivan
Also Present: Renee Sarmiento (Clerk), Okemo Valley TV

1. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
2. No changes to agenda.
3. Town Plan Revisions
 - a. Update from State Geologist

Email received from State Geologist regarding professional view of geological landscape/important geology in Mount Holly. Jon responded with the following questions, but has not yet received a response:

1. Is the Mount Holly Complex described as a major rock formation in town named after the town of Mount Holly?
2. In your view are there any new details about the Mammoth from Dartmouth worth including in the Town Plan?
3. Jon had seen various places on website and in the state archives there is some information about radioactive sources and/or uranium around Okemo. Is this noteworthy?
4. In our 1974 town plan it refers to "Hortonville esker natural areas inventory-208G. It says this area is an important geological feature illustrating glacial deposits. Does the state geologist agree with this, and is it worth including a description of the geology in the Town Plan?

- b. Update from State Archaeologist

- i. Email received from State Archeologist included a short statement with a long list of archeological sites. List included sites within the Green Mountain National Forest, but more sites will be included at a later time. Due to protection rules sites cannot be pinpointed. How would sites be mapped if public is not permitted to know where they are?

Jon responded with the following questions, and will report back:

1. Has the Halfway Camp on Crown Point Road been studied or documented at all?

Halfway Camp was a British encampment (on Perry Farm) for soldiers as they were traveling from Lake Champlain/Fort Ticonderoga to Boston.

2. There were two areas (Ludlow gap -Rt.103 and West River Gap-Rt.155) in town that were very heavily used by Native Americans. Sources state mammoths and Native Americans used these pathways as the main route from Lake Champlain to the Connecticut River. Haven't seen documented archeological sites where camps or Native American relics have been found in Mount Holly.

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What would we look for if wanting to make a recommendation? For example, if someone were digging a ditch and found something, what would they do? Asking for recommendations from archeologist about what to look for, and what to do when you find something.

3. Asked for details regarding documentation about West River corridor for Native Americans.
 4. There are a couple Civilian Conservation Corp sites in town. The most prominent is near the top of Okemo. Does this fall into archeology or is it too recent?
 5. There were two studies of cultural landscape done by the University of Maine. One was for the norther part of town adjacent to Coolidge state forest (Tiny pond), and another done in Okemo state forest. Are we able to receive copies?
- ii. Steven stated Dennis Devereaux would be a good source of early settler sites. There is a map of past one room school houses in Blacksmith shop.
 - iii. Jon is hoping the Conservation Commission could help with making make a list of these things. There are people on the commission that know quite a bit of the history. Phil Leonard may have a map of stone walls and cellar holes.
 - iv. Next steps include contacting Dennis Devereaux and individuals at the museum.
 - v. Steven spoke about the upcoming museum board meeting at the Odd Fellows Hall on Monday, April 12th at 6:30pm. Steven will attend, and invite members to a Planning Commission meeting. Steven will also relay message that Planning Commission is interested in working with them and the Conservation Commission to create an inventory of important archeological and historical sites.
- c. Review past Mount Holly Town Plans
 - i. Past Town Plans have all been uploaded to the Google Drive. Comparisons can be made using Word or PDF.
 - ii. Discussion about thoughts on old Town Plans.
 1. Steven shared he thought the history of the town in the 2004 Town Plan was well done.
 2. Jon stated the 2004 and 1999 Town Plan were similar, but the 2008 and the 2018 Town Plan were significantly different. Plans from 1974 to the late 80's when the rules changed around Act 200 were similar, and then it changed to needing inventories and goals. This changed around 1993. The 1993 Town Plan was rejected, and then re-voted on. Adjustments were made to end the lawsuit with Okemo.
4. Public comments - none
 5. Upcoming meetings
 - c. April 21 6:30 PM - Public Hearing
 - d. April 21 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting
 6. Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 7:37pm

For the Commission,
Renee Sarmiento, Planning Commission Clerk

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In draft form until approved on April 21st, 2021