

Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC)

Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) was called to order at 7:10 pm on November 2, 2021 by Annette Lynch. It was held in the Community Room with some attendees joining via Zoom.

Present

Annette Lynch, Fra DeVine, Peter Smith, Philippe Crane, David Martin, Philip Leonard, Ryan Metcalf (by Zoom), Fred Garrow. Jim Corven was waiting to join remotely.

Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was accepted by consensus. The main item being the report and plan, the commission agreed to 30 minutes for committee reports followed by an hour for the report and plan.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting (October 5) were approved. (Moved by P. Crane, seconded by D. Martin.)

Agenda Items

A. Lynch spoke about finances. The town had set aside \$500 for us for the first year, increased to \$1,000 for the year just begun. In view of this, and on advice from the Secretary of State, we should have a treasurer. Fred Garrow (moved by F. DeVine, seconded by P. Leonard) was elected to that position.

P. Crane asked that we move to Action Items from October, and provided a **Shade Tree Plan update**. Progress has been made; he asked for and received indications of volunteer support from MHCC members in preparing to complete the report on schedule. He estimated, based on conversations with others involved in tree plans, that it would take about from \$2K to \$3K per year to manage the efforts encompassed by the Shade Tree Plan.

A. Lynch said that the absence of J. Corven meant that further action on Policies and Procedures needs to be postponed.

There was discussion about some newly available maps which will assist in inventory updates. These include those Dave Martin provided from the Ninevah Foundation and others acquired more recently.

P. Leonard began a discussion about Star Lake. He explained a plan to have the town apply for a state permit that would allow the use of bottom barriers as part of weed control efforts. He asked for the Commission's support of this idea. This support was moved by Fra DeVine, seconded by Fred Garrow and approved by vote of the commissioners. D. Martin said he would contact Kelly Beerman, who has aided efforts at Lake Ninevah in her role with the Farm and Wilderness Foundation.

F. Garrow indicated it was time for the topic to shift to discussion of our report and plan to the town of Mount Holly, which needs attention in order to be completed in a timely manner.

A. Lynch distributed two documents, an Inventory of Valuable Resources, and one titled “Conservation Commission Plan 2021-2022” which contains suggestions interspersed with selections from the statute governing municipal conservation commissions in Vermont. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussions of [NOTE: draft minutes had this paragraph ending here; sentence and paragraph continue..] (1) our progress to date in updating inventories, (2) preparing materials for the Select Board (and for the Town Meeting literature and annual report), and (3) assessing our own progress to date and plans for the future regarding resource inventories. F. Garrow suggested a plan for continuing by discussing one inventory area per month in the future.

Other Business

No other business was brought to attention.

Action Items

- Continue work of Inventory review, with some 30 minutes per meeting devoted to covering all areas over the coming year.
- Report to the town and for the Town Report.
- Tree Plan development to continue in advance of March deadline.
- Activation of our approval to have the town support application for Star Lake weed abatement.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of MHCC will be on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm. The agenda will be provided by A. Lynch.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by vote at 8:43 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.