

Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 5, 2022

Opening

The regular meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) was called to order at 7:04 pm on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 by Fra DeVine. It was held by Zoom only.

Present

Fra DeVine, Philippe Crane, David Martin, Philip Leonard, Fred Garrow, Jim Corven, Peter Smith, Susan Presson, Stephen Michel (guest).

Approval of Agenda

After requests by Jim and Philippe for time under **Other and New Business** the meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from April 5 meeting approved as written. Motion to accept : P.Crane. Second: D. Martin. Unanimously approved

Northford Timber Framers gift.

Fra announced that Northland Timber Farmers has made a gift of \$1,000 to the Commission in conjunction with their current project on Gates Road. He described our current assets, and would like Fred Garrow to work out a process, with David Johnson, for managing transactions. He recommended that the gift be allocated to Star Lake for bottom barriers. P. Crane spoke in support, saying that funds for trees might be easier to obtain than for the lake. Jim Corven and Phil Crane suggested that allocation can wait, as we will authorize expenditures individually in the future. The matter rested there.

Shade Tree Plan update

Phil Crane said that the Shade Tree Plan now appears under “Announcements” on moumthollyvt.org, and that he will present it at next Tuesday’s 6:30 pm meeting of the Select Board. He asked that we support this by attending, and Fra Devine reinforced this request.

Star Lake update

Susan mentioned that she has not received Star Lake messages; connections are now improved. Phil L. reported the “state of the question” regarding the bottom barriers. Many aspects are still unsettled. We discussed a public event, and Fra spoke to teaming with the Community Association and their Mount Holly Days event on Sunday, July 24 from noon to 3pm. We discussed speakers and their focus (lake evolution, history of Star Lake). Peter Smith spoke of his personal history. Susan suggested an interview that could be on a looping video, maybe 10-12 minutes in duration. Discussion led to having a poster board in conjunction with Mount Holly Days, and an additional presentation in conjunction with Cider Days in the Fall.

Reports about Resource Inventories

There was brief discussion, but little news to report, regarding MHCC inventories. Fra noted Ryan's absence has affected inventories that involve him. Dave noted zero response to his questions regarding recreation.

Other and New Business

Jim Corven brought three items to our attention:

- (1) Jim has been contacted by Everett Marshall of Vermont Fish and Wildlife that they have received money to study "special ecological communities" and that they could use MHCC help in communicating with landowners of properties they would like to visit. After a few questions, Jim indicated that our helping could assist our inventories project, and he agreed to be a coordinator regarding any such requests.
- (2) Kits for Star Lake testing have arrived. Tim Bickford will serve as Health Officer until August but is currently ailing. Jim recruited Phil L. to assist with a test on Wednesday.
- (3) Jim gave a brief update on the Mount Holly Biodiversity Project, indicating increases in observers (up 20 to 177) and species (up 28 to 951) so far this summer.

Action Items

- Forward motion on Star Lake.
- Attend Select Board meeting in support of Phil C. and the Shade Tree Plan.
- Committees to continue their work on definitions and building their inventory information.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of MHCC will be on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 7:00 pm. The agenda will be provided in advance. Susan will be away.

Adjournment

Fra DeVine declared the meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.