

Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Opening

The regular meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) was called to order at 7:04 pm on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 by Fra DeVine. It was held at the Mount Holly Library and by Zoom.

Present

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

Approval of Agenda

After brief discussion the meeting agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 5 April meeting were approved as written. Motion to accept: P.Crane. Second: J. Corven. Unanimously approved.

Shade Tree Plan update

P. Crane said that Mount Holly Selected Board has voted to accept the Shade Tree Plan as presented . It will protect trees on Maple Hill Road down to route 155 and any trees on town property. The next step is updating of the inventory, to include (with landowner approval) the church green. Funds can be sought from the Urban Community Forest Program. Then actual implementation of the Plan can begin. P. Smith spoke of significant trees on his land, and J. Corven indicated trees he thinks should be added. We concluded with a brief discussion of emerald ash borer damage, which begins with dieback to the tree crowns.

Star Lake update

Phil L. reported that the bottom barriers are in, and that a small display for Mount Holly Day on July 24 marked the event. Fred mentioned having had chilly 7:30 am swimming lessons at Star Lake in about 1972-73. These were initiated following a drowning death, and ran for 3-4 years. Phil L. gave some details about RakeZilla, a large rake that he has found to be particularly helpful. We also spoke about needing to update the community about our efforts, and about our needing help for work sessions at Star Lake. S. Michel asked – We know something about what we *cannot* do at Star Lake. What *can* we do according to the state? D. Martin said that hand-pulling in areas of interest is allowed.

Reports about Resource Inventories

Reports reflected summer inactivity regarding inventories. S. Michel noted that VHS to DVD conversions underway at the Museum will benefit historical inventories. P. Crane said he would contact Jon McCann regarding specific inventories to focus on to assist the efforts of the Planning Commission.

Strategy and Planning

F. De Vine said that, although he intends to remain a member of the Commission, he will not act as chair. He said that he would provide members with a list of dates when our current terms end. We discussed Ryan Metcalfe's lack of participation in recent months. Fra suggested that we devote the bulk of our September meeting to organizational planning. P. Crane indicated he would miss that meeting.

Other and New Business

Jim Corven brought two items to our attention: He refreshed information about the Vermont Fish and Wildlife grant to study "special ecological communities" and his interest in helping communicate with landowners of properties they would like to visit. He called attention to the Mount Holly Conservation Trust annual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, at Odd Fellows Hall. This is an open public meeting and will include a presentation by Jim about the iNaturalist project.

Fra DeVine summarized our financial position, indicating that the MHCC has \$3,000 in its account with Mount Holly, representing appropriations, a gift and our Tiny Grant.

Action Items

- Members to forward summary information by 22nd of each month to Phil Crane for inclusion in ChitChat.
- Fra to provide term dates for current members.
- August 31 meeting of Conservation Trust.
- P. Crane to contact Jon McCann about inventories and Planning Commission needs.
- Prepare for September annual meeting and elections.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of MHCC will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 7:00 pm. The agenda will be provided in advance. Susan will be away.

Adjournment

Fra DeVine declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.