

Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC)

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

Opening

The regular meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) was called to order at 7:04 pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 by Fra DeVine. It was held in the Community Center and by Zoom.

Present

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

Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved as previously circulated.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the August 2 meeting were approved as submitted. Motion to accept: P. Smith. Second: D. Martin. Unanimously approved

Shade Tree Plan

Phil Crane, in a September 6 email, provided the following in view of his anticipated absence from the meeting:

I really have not made any actual progress recently. Virtual progress (planning) is what I have to report.

Prepare a more detailed inventory of the main section of Maple Hill Rd. (circa 0.25 miles) with the objective to create a realistic estimate of work and cost necessary to improve the status and longevity of the existing trees as well to identify where new trees are needed.

Discuss the inclusion in the STPP plan of the town planted trees on the Tatangelo property with Tatangelo to get a formal agreement signed. This kind of agreement was foreseen in the plan as approved.

Maintain contact with the Vermont Urban and Community Forest folks to make sure we are in the loop for any State funds that may be available to execute the work identified by the above.

Review the status of trees at the Star Lake recreation area to see what will need to be done there to maintain the status quo.

Complete the inventory of Maple Hill Rd.

Identify other areas to survey beyond what was included in the plan as approved in July. This new inventory would then be formally added to the plan in the manner foreseen.

Star Lake

Phil L. brought up his interest in our acquiring two rakes (RakeZilla) to be used in Star Lake. A motion to purchase these, at a cost not to exceed \$400, was made by Fra DeVine and seconded by Jim Corven. The motion passed without objection.

Committee Reports

David Martin (Recreation) reported that he had received nothing in response to his seeking (via ChitChat) community input regarding recreation. There were no other committee reports. Jim Corven spoke about use of drop-box and about town website questions.

MHCC Strategy and Restructuring

Fra circulated a chart titled *MHCC-Terms* detailing terms of past and present MHCC members. These include 6 resigned members, including Fred Garrow who is not wanting to be reappointed. There are 5 members (Corven, Crane, Martin, Presson, Smith) serving unexpired terms and 2 (DeVine, Leonard) with expiring terms willing to be reappointed. Fra pointed to our October annual meeting, saying he will not continue as chair but would be willing to take on treasurer duties, and encouraged Leonard to continue as scribe.

We spent time discussing future strategies for the Commission. Items included were tailoring ChitChat messaging, having a passive display or both Star Lake and Biodiversity at Cider Days, functioning more like a commission in regard to inventories, having our inventories lead to actions or recommendations, targeting groups (such as the public, the Select Board, the Planning Commission, the school community and others) for educational efforts, and making the cataloging of natural resources our highest priority. Some of this discussion is reflected in **Action Items** below.

Other Business

There was no other or new business.

Action Items

- Chit Chat: Sue Presson to draft a short report for the Chit Chat due 9/22.
- Cider Days: Fra to speak to Carol about doing a set up at Cider Days. (Carol suggests we set it up in the museum.)
- Inventories: All commission members to refocus their efforts on developing inventories.
- Education: All commission members assist in developing educational messages to the public, schools, Select Board, MH Planning Commission, and the MH Conservation Trust.
- AVCC: Jim Corven will send the link to AVCC to the Commission members.
- Reappointments: Fra will present candidates for reappointment at the next Select Board meeting.

Next meeting

The next meeting of MHCC will be on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 7:00 pm. The agenda will be provided in advance.

Adjournment

Fra DeVine declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.