

Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC)

Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2022

Opening

The Annual Meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) was called to order at 7:05 pm on October 4, 2022 by Fra DeVine in the Mount Holly Community Center (and by ZOOM).

Present

Fra DeVine, Phil Crane (via ZOOM), Dave Martin(via Zoom), Phil Leonard, Jim Corven, Peter Smith, Sue Presson. Guest: Steve Michel

Approval of Agenda

Jim asked that the agenda be expanded to include some discussion of scenic roads, and a note about a Champlain Basin RFP. The agenda (with these changes) was accepted unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Phil Crane asked about having a treasurer's report as part of meeting minutes. This can be done in the future by having a Treasurer's Report as a routine agenda item. Sue moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Phil Crane, approved unanimously.

Annual Review

Fra circulated his "Annual Review of Activities and Accomplishments for 2021/2022." In doing so, he thanked members for their service, and he relinquished being chair. Jim said he would like to see some numerical data included in the Review. Fra agreed, and Jim said he would provide this for the iNaturalist program.

Election of Officers

We elected officers for the coming year. All but the Treasurer were nominated by Fra. Elected were Phil Crane (Chair), Dave Martin (Vice Chair), Phil Leonard (Recorder) and Fra DeVine (Treasurer, nominated by Phil Crane). Phil Crane presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Recreation Input for Planning Commission

We discussed providing information on recreation to the Planning Commission at its meeting of Wednesday, October 5. The outcome was that Phil Crane agreed to take to them the recommendation that they focus on four aspects: parking spaces for trails, availability of playground facilities for daytime use, a skating area for winter recreation, and the possibility of the Select Board appointing a town Recreation Commission. Dave Martin added that we should also communicate our intent to provide a recreation guide to Mount Holly.

In addition to this, Sue said that she plans to prepare a "Take a Hike" piece for the next ChitChat, in part to invite community input.

New Business

We noted the need to begin a process for preparing input to the Planning Commission on the topic of Scenic Roads. This should be aided by reference to the state documents (particularly the guide book) cited in Jim's email of Sunday, October 2. Phil Crane will tell the P.Comm. about our beginning to address scenic roads.

Phil Crane indicated that he will look into the grant program of Urban Community Forestry.

Phil Leonard asked about our two vacancies, and about the MHCC email inbox. Fra will pursue the former; Jim has access to the latter.

Jim mentioned the funding opportunities referred to in his October 4 email. These involve the Lake Champlain Basin, and are not available to towns. Jim asked that members provide input to the Mount Holly Conservation Trust, a recipient of past funds, keeping in mind that some programs have a deadline of October 26.

Action Items

- Phil Crane to present recreation info to the Planning Commission.
- Fra to follow up about filling two MHCC positions
- Members look at Lake Champlain Basin opportunities well before October 26 deadline.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the MHCC will be on Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 pm. The agenda will be provided by Phil Crane.

Adjournment

Fra moved to adjourn, seconded by Sue. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.