

# Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC)

Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2022

## Opening

The Regular Meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) was called to order at 7:05 pm on December 6, 2022 by Phil Crane in the Mount Holly Community Center (and by ZOOM).

## Present

Fra DeVine ZOOM), Phil Crane, Dave Martin, Phil Leonard (ZOOM), Jim Corven, Peter Smith, Sue Presson.

## Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted after addition of Biodiversity.

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes were accepted (moved by Fra, seconded by Dave) subject to the addition of data from last month's Treasurer's Report.

## Scenic Roads Discussion

Commissioners discussed preparing information for the public regarding the Scenic Roads designation that was brought up in our previous meeting. Sue is preparing a request for public involvement for the next ChitChat.

## Ongoing Programs (6)

The meeting contained discussion about future **ChitChat** submissions. Topics included Scenic Roads, items about favorite walks, and extended to using the town web site to post text and pictures about recreational opportunities.

Phil L. said there is no news about **Star Lake**.

Phil C. addressed the **Shade Tree** program, asking the Commission to endorse his draft application (circulated by email prior to the meeting) for a 2023 Canopy Grant. We discussed the inclusion of the pruning of small planted trees and the issue of damage caused by lawn maintenance equipment. Dave moved, seconded by Jim, that the MHCC support Phil C. in this effort. The motion was passed.

Reporting about **Inventories** is postponed until next month.

Dave's earlier suggestion regarding **Recreation**, namely, that each commissioner write up a description of a favorite hike or walk, is still on the table.

Jim called attention to the report he had circulated concerning **Biodiversity**. He would like the local reporting to reach "Research Grade" so that it can go into the state data base "Vermont Atlas of Life"

on iNaturalist. The Atlas has some 11K species, while the Mount Holly reporting has about 1K species. Jim says it is notable that the Mount Holly data has been collected largely by volunteers.

### **Other and New Business**

Phil C. asked about the status of the MHCC Annual Report to the town. This may have been taken care of at our annual meeting. Phil will check with Caitlin on the status of this report.

We discussed meeting dates and times. 7 pm seems stable; a change in the January date was adopted (see below).

There has been interest in new members joining the Commission. Fra said we had persuaded the Select Board to consider a full to consist of 9 members. Phil L. will follow up with 2 people who have expressed an interest in serving.

### **Action Items**

- Prepare ChitChat piece asking for public to contribute views about Scenic Roads.
- Members to share write-ups of favorite walks/hikes.
- Notification needed for change of January meeting date.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the MHCC will be on Monday, January 9 at 7:00 pm. **NOTE: This is a deviation from the standard First Tuesday.** The agenda will be provided by Phil Crane.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.