

# Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC)

## Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2022

### Opening

The Regular Meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC) was called to order at 7:05 pm on November 1, 2022 by Phil Crane in the Mount Holly Community Center (and by ZOOM).

### Present

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

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted unanimously.

### Approval of Minutes

Phil Crane moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Fra DeVine, approved unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

Fra distributed a financial report as of 10/31/2022. As moved by Dave and seconded by Sue, this was approved unanimously. The details:

#### Cash

Unreserved Cash	\$1,451.05	Payables and Restricted Funds	
Grant Restricted Cash	<u>500.00</u>	Account Payable	
		Phil Leonard	\$339.98
Total Cash	\$1,951.05	Tiny Grant	<u>\$500.00</u>
FY 2022/23 Budget Allocation	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<b>Total Payable</b>	\$839.98
<b>Total Cash and Credit</b>	\$2,951.05	<b>Total Currently Available</b>	<b>\$2,111.07</b>

### Scenic Roads Discussion

Jim presented information stemming from 1977 legislation giving towns wide latitude in designating scenic roads. He cited a state "Guidebook" on the subject, which recommends consulting the Regional Planning Commission, gives survey ideas and a suggested checklist. Jim suggested that the MHCC, possibly along with the Planning Commission, prepare a standard, and then a recommendation to the Select Board. Dave asked Jon what the Planning Commission would want from us, and Jon suggested consideration of routes 103 and 155 and Vermont's Scenic Byways program. He also mentioned considering scenic views and what types of development would *not* fit into a scenic road. Jon stressed that Town Plans and documents related to Act 250 require a great deal of specificity in order to be effective. Phil C. asked what we want to do, and the recommendation was to identify a lead person; Phil C., Jim and Dave will make a précis of what we want and who might be involved. During the

discussion it was pointed out that different Mount Holly Town Plans have different lists of scenic roads. NOTE: In his October 2 message to us, Jim provided narrative and a link to shared documents, [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UvOo52GzG\\_Jl\\_Eh4Fgd5CUXamCVAo8hG?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UvOo52GzG_Jl_Eh4Fgd5CUXamCVAo8hG?usp=sharing)

### **Flood Hazard and River Corridor Discussion**

Jon McCann introduced this segment, which is about a new By-Law to update an old (pre-2008) one to a new state standard. This deals with mitigating the effects of major flooding on property owners, and would increase amounts that Vermont and FEMA would pay in case of a disaster. Jon said that the Planning Commission would discuss it in a special meeting on November 2, to be followed by a public hearing in early December, with presentation to the Select Board thereafter.

### **Ongoing Programs (5)**

Sue said that she has been thinking about a “bears everywhere” piece for the next **ChitChat**. Something about the flood hazard/river corridor material might be appropriate as well. Regarding bears, she hopes to interview Peter; whose son works on the bear project for VT Fish and Wildlife.

Phil L. spoke about **Star Lake**, saying that the bottom barriers are still in, and that a new neighbor has devised a boat that will assist in removing weeds near the surface. The first year of barriers has been promising, but much remains to be learned and done. The diving company has not been very responsive.

Phil C. addressed the **Shade Tree** program. He plans to apply for a small grant, for which matching funds and the participation of an arborist in grant preparation will be needed.

Fra DeVine said there is nothing new to report about **Inventories**.

Dave had a suggestion regarding **Recreation**, namely, that each commissioner write up a description of a favorite hike or walk. Peter discussed one such, including Beaver Meadows, Fifield Pond and the White Rocks National Recreation Area.

### **Other and New Business**

Phil C. brought up the “Mount Holly Community Vision Survey” which recently surfaced. He had wondered about its origin and nature. Jon McCann said it arose from the availability of ARPA funds and a Municipal Planning Grant. Jon mentioned community members involved (Andy Bolalek, Jeff Chase, Russ Garrow, Anna Hanson, Kevin Hollebeek, Lisa Kelley, Dave Martin, Jon McCann, Faith Tempest) and said that the group is working with Community Roots LLC and its principal Melissa Levy.

### **Action Items**

- Prepare (Phil C., Jim, Dave) a focus document regarding scenic roads.
- Sue to think about ChitChat contributions – bears and/or flooding/river corridors.
- Each MHCC member to write up a favorite recreational spot or activity.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the MHCC will be on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm. The agenda will be provided by Phil Crane.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.