

Mount Holly Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2023

Opening

The May regular meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:04 pm on May 2, 2023 by Phil Crane. It was held in the Community Room beneath the Library.

Present

In person: Fra DeVine, David Martin, Peter Smith, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Phil Crane, Sue Presson, Phil Leonard, Jim Corven. Guests via ZOOM: Barbara and Lloyd Conley.

Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved, moved by Fra, seconded by Sue.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the March 7, 2023 meeting were amended so that the estimated \$500 *net* cost replaced the estimated initial outlay for ash borer chemicals and equipment; moved by Fra, seconded by Dave and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Fra did not have a complete report, but indicated that funds are in good condition.

Ongoing Programs (6)

Phil L. discussed a planned public event scheduled for May 17. He asked for approval to spend some of the Tiny Grant funds awarded for public events concerning **Star Lake** on the scheduled talk by Michael Lew-Smith. This request was approved; moved by Sue, seconded by Dave. Discussion about publicity for the event followed. Phil L. brought up the need for the MHCC to be in touch with the Planning Commission about the Town Plan, and with Jon McCann about the committee proposing allocations of ARPA funds. After discussion, the creation of a **subcommittee** (Sue, Dave, and Jean) for this liaison purpose was **moved** (by Phil Crane), **seconded** (by Jim) and **passed**.

Jim updated numbers on **Biodiversity**, including recording of new species and o additional observers in Mount Holly. He mentioned that this is the time of year for amphibian activity as well as for the arrival of migrating warblers. There will be a May 10 training for teachers at Mount Holly School regarding iNaturalist and biodiversity. On a second topic, Jim asked for help from Commissioners in contacting property owners in conjunction with a State effort to study "natural communities" in Mount Holly, one of a few Vermont towns selected for this purpose.

Fra briefly discussed **Inventories** and related maps, saying there is a need to explore updating the mapping that was done in previous times.

Regarding **Recreation**, Phil Crane mentioned that he and Peter are planning to explore Fifield Pond and access to that site. Others expressed interest in joining that endeavor.

Phil C. reported that a public meeting about **emerald ash borer** will be held at 4 pm on Sunday, May 14, which happens to be Mother's Day.

Sue will plan for a Star Lake related piece in the **ChitChat** article for June. This would include reporting on the May 17 talk.

Action Items

- Chit Chat: Sue and others to look at writing about Star Lake.
- Star Lake: Phil L. and Jean to continue pursue State and local contacts.
- Phil C. to further implementation of ash borer treatments.
- MHCC should invite Jon McCann to brief us about ARPA discussions and to talk about inventory updates. The subcommittee should pursue this effort.
- Peter, Phil C. and others to plan for a Fifield Pond visit when drier conditions prevail.
- Members to contact Jim about state efforts around natural communities and wetlands.

Next meeting

The next regular scheduled meeting of the MHCC will be on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 7:00 pm. The agenda will be provided in advance.

Adjournment

As members indicated no further items, Phil Crane declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.