

Mount Holly Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

Opening

The July meeting (rescheduled because of the Tuesday holiday) of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:11 pm on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 by Phil Crane. It was held in the Community Room beneath the Library.

Present

In person: David Martin, Peter Smith, Phil Crane, Phil Leonard, Jim Corven. By ZOOM: Jeanmarie Fitzgerald

Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was discussed and approved.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the June 6, 2023 meeting were amended by adding an action about map overlays, and then approved (moved by Phil C., seconded by Dave).

Treasurer's Report

Fra being absent, there was no treasurer's report considered at this meeting.

Ongoing Programs (3+)

Phil L. mentioned two things related to **Star Lake**, the presence of another invasive aquatic plant, curly-leaf pondweed (*potamogeton crispus*), and also the fact that planning for an event related to the Tiny Grant has not taken place. Jean reported working to tackle phragmites, which occurs both near the boat launch area and across the lake from her. She mentioned that she has contacted Anna Hanson about future work dates, and that she is interested in restarting a Friends of Star Lake group. Phil and Jean are tasked with looking into feasibility and costs related to a plant survey. Regarding this, Dave mentioned local ecologist Brett Engstrom as a possible alternate to an Arrowwood representative.

Jim spoke about **Biodiversity**, expressing displeasure at the absence of photos and also at some reports of species simply as "other." Dave echoed the importance of photos, and said reports should be limited to wild species. Jim indicated he could do a short ChitChat note addressing his concerns.

As part of a review of the past month (per Agenda) Jim spoke about the recent solid waste & composting workshop. His presentation on the latter topic will also be included in the upcoming Solar Fest in Brandon. Progress on locating resource maps, and particular interest in wildlife crossings (Fra) and wetlands (Jim) were also noted in this review.

Phil C. reported on **emerald ash borer** treatments. Tm Bickford is not available to do treatments because of illness. Phil circulated a list of 29 people who have expressed interest in treatments.

Other and New Business

Public Outreach Initiatives should include a public event pursuant to the Tiny Grant, and efforts to revive Friends of Star Lake.

Jim reported slight response regarding contacting property owners on behalf of VT Fish and Wildlife. He may attempt mail contact with those identified as having “high priority” parcels.

Dave reported that Jon McCann and the Planning Commission have interest in a town forest, both for wildlife and for providing safe walking trails in Mount Holly. They also would like the town to establish a Recreation Commission.

Action Items

- Star Lake: Phil L. and Jean to work on Friends of Star Lake revival and a summer public event.
- MHCC should maintain contact with Jon McCann and the Planning Commission.
- Fra and Jim to continue pursuing iNaturalist/Arrowwood map overlays.
- ChitChat possible short pieces: ash borer update (Phil C.), iNaturalist guidelines and encouragement of composting (Jim).

Next meeting

The next regular scheduled meeting of the MHCC will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 7:00 pm. The place will be announced, and the agenda provided, in advance of the meeting.

Adjournment

As members indicated no further items, Phil Crane declared the meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.