

Mount Holly Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2023

Opening

The June regular meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:06 pm on June 6, 2023 by Phil Crane. It was held in the Community Room beneath the Library.

Present

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

Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was discussed and approved. We had anticipated having Jon McCann as a guest, but this has been postponed.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 2, 2023 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

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

Ongoing Programs (7)

Phil L. gave a **Star Lake** update. There is little news. [Note: Since the meeting he has learned that the bottom barriers have been removed, to be reinstalled in early July.] It appears that any path to getting chemical permits will require considerable effort. Jean mentioned the need to reboot the Friends of Star Lake group to raise funds for needed background work in this direction.

Jim updated numbers on **Biodiversity**, indicating 3712 observations of 1068 species by 209 observers. Interesting new observations include a broad-wing hawk. Jim stressed that he would like to see more repeated observations of common species recorded. Susan reported a bobolink nest on her property, and said she has had difficulty posting to iNaturalist.

Regarding **Inventories** we discussed the idea of superimposing iNaturalist data on existing maps, and raised the question of just where digital versions of the original inventory maps are located.

Regarding **Recreation**, Phil C. mentioned that he and Peter made an expedition to Beaver Meadow Road and beyond, but fell short of reaching Fifield Pond. Discussion about the area ensued. Dave spoke about interest in walking paths, possibly roadside gravel paths, along Belmont Road. We also talked about the Star Lake Wildlife Management Area as a walking site, and as a possible town forest.

Phil C. reported that 12 people have signed up for **emerald ash borer** treatments. He will take up the release of funds to buy chemicals, including at the next Select Board meeting.

Sue will plan for a **ChitChat** article for July featuring bobolinks in Mount Holly.

Action Items

- Chit Chat: Sue on bobolinks.
- Star Lake: Phil L. and Jean to continue pursue State and local contacts.
- Phil C. to pursue chemical purchase for 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.
- Fra and Jim to pursue iNaturalist/Arrowwood map overlays.

Next meeting

Because the next regular scheduled meeting of the MHCC would be on Tuesday, July 4, an alternate date is called for. We settled on Wednesday, July 5, 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 8:20 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.