

Mount Holly Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2023

Opening

The November regular meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:03 pm on November 7, 2023 by Phil Crane. It was held in the Community Room below the Library.

Present

David Martin, Peter Smith, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Phil Crane, Sue Presson, Phil Leonard, as well as guest and potential member Megan Litwhiler.

Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was discussed and approved.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the October 3, 2023 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

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

Organizational items

Members shared introductions with Megan Litwhiler, a Mount Holly resident who attended in order to explore applying for a spot on the Commission. Megan is an ecologist working at Dartmouth College. Members talked about some of our work and about related historical items to provide context. Megan's participation was appreciated, and members encouraged her to apply. There was no discussion about filling the Treasurer spot. Phil C. mentioned his conversations with Liz Karle and spoke briefly and generally about inventories of Natural, Historical and Cultural resources.

Star Lake

Phil and Jean had little to report about Star Lake. Megan suggested brainstorming involving students interested in projects involving community and ecology. We talked soe about history, for example, efforts in the 1950s to drain and deepen the lake.

ChitChat

Sue is interested in doing a piece on the 14 former Mount Holly schoolhouses.

Possible Grant Proposals

We discussed grant opportunities. These include Requests for Proposals from the Rutland County Solid Waste District (acquiring composters to be resold in the community), an Urban and Community Forest Proposal, and a community grand possibility from the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC). These require town involvement, some being 50/50 match grants. Proceeding with these will require Select Board approval, and we decided to request such.

Other Business

We discussed the Draft Town Plan. This has been positively received, though not thoroughly reviewed, by all members. Peter Smith agreed to circulate comments he has made at the request of the Planning Commission, and members urged one another to participate in the upcoming November 15 hearing.

Action Items

- Phil C. to present a membership endorsement and grant information to the Select Board.
- Sue to work on Chit Chat materials.
- Members to review Town Plan documents and to attend the November 15 hearing.

Next meeting

The next regular scheduled meeting of the MHCC will be held on Tuesday, December 5, at 7 pm.

Adjournment

As members indicated no further items, Phil Crane declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.