

## **Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC)**

### Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the  
7:05pm by Phil Crane in the Community Room below the library.

Phil Crane, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Megan Litwhiler, Phil Leonard, Jim Corven, Peter Smith.

After brief conversation, the meeting agenda was approved.

The minutes from February 2, 2024 were approved by unanimous consent. (Reminder: The March 5 meeting had been cancelled, so these were the pending draft minutes.)

**Commission Projects Discussion** Neither Phil C. nor Megan had recent activity to report.

#### **Energy Fair**

Jim discussed the Energy Fair to be held on Saturday, June 15 funded by a \$4,000 Municipal Energy Reduction Plan grant. The date coincides with the Volunteer Fire Department supper, and Fair participants will receive meal tickets underwritten by the grant. The Community Room has been reserved from 11-6 that day for exhibitions, and the Library will be available for afternoon talks.

Exhibitor setup will take place from 11 to noon. Confirmed exhibitors include Efficiency Vermont (with Drive Electric included), Green Mountain Power, Benson Chevrolet, NeighborWorks-Heat Squad, Same Sun Solar, Net Zero Renewable Resources, Master Plumbing and Heating, and the Rutland County Solid Waste District; others are pending. Some local electric vehicle owners will join Benson's in having electric cars on the Village Green. Both Aubuchon Hardware and LaValley Building Supply will contribute gift cards.

Jim asked for help regarding setup and, particularly, with publicity. Possible help could come from Abe and/or Kathy Leber, the Vermont Journal, and a town mailing. MHCC members can do layout and setup, and Jean said she could look into printing tickets for the Saturday Supper.

#### **Star Lake Arrowwood study**

Jim and Arrowwood principal Michael Lew-Smith are working up details of the study to be sponsored by the Conservation Trust. This will include water chemistry and the species, diversity abundance and diversity of aquatic vegetation on and in Star Lake. The goal is to provide data as a basis for a management plan for Star Lake.

### **Star Lake water testing**

We discussed our urging that the town health officer attend to water testing during the coming summer.

**Ash Borer Mitigation** This continuing program will restart at the May/June border.

**Inventories** There was no report on this item; Jim awaits files from Annette Lynch.

### **Solid Waste District Grants**

Their program is running again, with some new staffing. Jim spoke about our acquiring composting bins and/or blue recycling bins for resale to town residents.

### **Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions**

We should respond to this organization and renew our membership and awareness of their programs. Phil C. will speak with Liz Karle about dues payment, and about a regular mechanism for our taking care of other expenditures in the future.

### **ChitChat**

The Ash Borer and the Energy Fair should be stressed in the next submission.

### **Other and New Business**

Further discussion of the ash borer program, and of the June 15 Energy Fair took place. Jean called attention to the Vermont Invasives website (<https://www.vtinvasives.org/>) and mentioned in particular the existence of a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps – something we might find useful in the future.

### **Action Items**

- Members to work on Energy Fair publicity possibilities.
- Phil C. to speak with town treasurer about payment of dues, other expense
- Susan to cover two topics for ChitChat.
- Phil L. to explore *Vermont Journal* publicity.

### **Next Meeting**

The MHCC will next meet on Tuesday, May 7, 2022, at 7:00 pm, with agenda provided in advance.

Phil C. declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.