

**Mount Holly Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting of August 5, 2025**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Opening**

The August meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was held at the Town Office and by ZOOM on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. Phil Crane called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Birgir Nilsen was welcomed as a new Commission member.

Members attending in person were Phil Crane, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Peter Smith, Birgir Nilsen, Alex Yuster, Phil Leonard and Dave Martin. Guest attending by ZOOM: M. Gilbert.

**Agenda and Minutes**

The agenda document was approved, with Jim Corven's email communication added under "Other and New." Minutes from the July 1 meeting were approved as presented (typos corrected later).

**Discussion of Agenda items**

Phil C. said that he monitors our email account, which has little or no traffic. He wants to learn how to designate others as having monitoring authority.

Jeanmarie began discussing the Star Lake program. She mentioned a communication she received on August 5 regarding issues (milfoil, use of porcela, wetlands status) at Lake Saint Catherine. Alex noted that on a recent drive she observed a proliferation of white pond lilies in the northern portion of Lake Bomoseen. Jeanmarie described ideas for the Star Lake park playground, including a possible feature employing large tree stumps, plus other features modeled on another local playground. She said she still needs to obtain an ADA appropriate walking mat for accessibility. Dave asked about signage pointing out this access when it is available. Jeanmarie and Phil C. will plan a walkaround to determine dimensions, and to outline tree work needing to be done, with the suggestion that Josh Bickford be consulted regarding tree care. Consulting other local artisans who might help in the park will be needed as well. Landscaping and shade trees should perhaps come first.

Phil L. reported briefly on permitting and on weeding activities, including the recent introduction of a third bottom barrier. Olin Reed and Misha Center recently toured the lake by canoe, indicating activity in the direction of harvesting permits. Peter pointed out that Carroll R. Tarbell's *History of Mount Holly, Vermont* mentions (page 3) that there was a small body of water present before the first dam was ever built. He also discussed the introduction and proliferation of pond lilies, outstripping the yellow spatterdock known before.

Dave reported on trail marking progress made recently on the old Syria Farm. He hopes that the outer red loop will soon be fully marked, at least in the counterclockwise direction. In the longer term, use of these trails will be encouraged and we discussed ways of making their availability known.

Phil L. will communicate with Sue about the next ChitChat submission.

We discussed the Corven email about reporing needed to the Rutland Regional Planning Comnission.

### **Action Items**

- Jeanmarie, Phil C. et al to survey Park and determine dimensions and needs regarding trees and other plantings.
- Phil L. to collaborate with Sue about material for the September ChitChat, including hibernation of the ash borer program.
- Dave to chase down status of “MERP Mini-Grant reports Overdue in RRPC” email from Jim Corven.
- Dave to continue organizing trail development.
- REMINDER: Posting rules include 3 post offices.
- Political outreach re. Wetlands issues should await response to the harvesting permit.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, at 6 pm in the Town Office.

### **Adjournment**

Adjournment occurred at 7:08 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Phil Leonard, Clerk