

Mount Holly Conservation Commission
Meeting of November 4, 2025
Minutes

Opening

The November meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was held at the Town Office on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Phil Crane called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Members attending in person were Phil Crane, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Alex Yuster, Phil Leonard, Sue Presson, Birgir Nilsen and Dave Martin. Ron Unterman attended via ZOOM.

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda document was approved after adding "Cider Days recap" and correcting the meeting date. September draft minutes were approved with one typo noted.

We briefly discussed the booth experience from Cider Days and decided that consulting with the Conservation Trust about having adjacent space should happen in preparation for Cider Days 2026.

Discussion of Agenda items

Dave began the Recreation Committee update with a handout regarding the State of Vermont 2026 Recreational Trails Program, for which pre-applications are due Friday, November 21, 2025. He and Birgir have looked into the application details. Group preference was shown for needs associated with the Shunpike trails. Dave also discussed the purchase of a Thore 500 camera using remaining funds from the MERP grant. **A motion to make this purchase was passed by acclamation.**

Regarding Star Lake, four aspects came under discussion. Jean began by asking about tree work in the park. This will need Town action at some time. For now, Jean and Phil C. will work up a list of trees needing treatment. In response to a question from Sue, Phil C. spoke about his conversation with Alice Nitka, and Dave indicated he would rework his letter and seek a meeting with local legislators. Phil L. said he is finishing up the season with activities and reporting on the small state aquatic nuisance grant. He asked for help toward providing dates and photos to enter into the report. Ron Unterman talked about Robert's harvester, saying it will be stored on his and Dottie's land for the winter, and that Robert would appreciate knowing his effort is appreciated and that financial support might defray costs. Ron mentioned that we might set up a means whereby tax-exempt contributions could be made to the Town of Mount Holly. He also helped by discussing quantities and logistics associated with removal and disposal of harvested weeds.

Action Items

- Phil C. and Jean to inventory trees needing treatment.
- Phil L. and Phil C. to prepare for November 11 SB meeting.
- Dave to pursue camera purchase and to work toward legislator connections.
- Phil L. to contact Jim Corven to widen access to our email account.
- Members (Dave, Birgir, Phil L.) to look into the 2026 Recreational Trails Program pre-application process.

Next Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 2**, at 6 pm in the Town Office. A quorum for this meeting might be difficult to reach because of members' travel plans.

Adjournment occurred at 7:12 pm. Minutes prepared and submitted by Phil Leonard, Clerk