

**Mount Holly Conservation Commission
Meeting of March 4, 2026
Draft Minutes**

Opening

The March 2026 meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 in the Town Office and via telephone (ZOOM launch was unsuccessful). Phil Crane called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Members attending in person were Phil Crane, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Peter Smith, Birgir Nilsen (late arrival), Phil Leonard and Sue Presson. Alex Yuster and Dave Martin joined by phone.

Agenda and Minutes

Two agenda items were added, vernal pools and a meeting regarding Act 59 to be held Tuesday, March 24, 5-8 pm by the Conservation Trust. Draft minutes from February 2026 were approved.

Discussion of Agenda items

On MHCC membership, we discussed the April 2026 end date for Sue Presson's term, and possible expansion to our previous high of 9 members. Sue indicated that she would like a break in her service. Sue and Alex both indicated that they are in touch with potential members, and that they will keep us informed about their interest.

Regarding Star Lake, Phil L. spoke about fundraising for harvester use. This could happen via either the Community Association or the Town Treasurer. We also discussed having a school effort to name the new machine. Jeanmarie addressed plantings, saying that tree work needs to precede those efforts, and that there is a sale of bare root plants (River Birch, for example) underway through the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District (see <https://www.rnrcd.org/rnrcd-s-annual-plant-sale>).

There was no Recreation Committee report *per se*. Phil C. asked about our publicizing such opportunities as the Yale Forest hike, the Syria trails and the Revolutionary Soldier monument. Alex mentioned that AllTrails documents the trail around Wilder Mountain in the GMNF. Someone asked if there is a Class 4 road from Healdville Road across to Teer Road (there is not).

Dave said he has not heard back from Sen. Terry Williams about our wetlands concerns.

Joe Galbraith has received inquiries about the IR cameras. We need to work on written materials. Alex suggested our organizing a public talk on the subject.

Action Items

- Sue and Alex to work on recruiting future MHCC members.
- Phil C. to share Jim Corven's Act 59 slide show.
- Jean and Phil L. to generate cost list for Recreation Area plantings.
- Members to prepare contributions for Sue to use for the next ChitChat issue.
- Phil L. to continue work on fundraising and harvester naming.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7.

Adjournment occurred at 7:10 pm. Minutes prepared and submitted by Phil Leonard, Clerk