

Mount Holly Conservation Commission
Meeting of April 7, 2026
Draft Minutes

Opening

The April 2026 meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 in the Town Office and via telephone (ZOOM launch was unsuccessful). Vice Chair Birgir Nilsen called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm

Members attending in person were Peter Smith, Birgir Nilsen, Phil Leonard, Alex Yuster and Dave Martin. Prospective member John Ackerman attended as guest.

Agenda and Minutes

Agenda was adopted, and draft minutes from March 2026 were approved.

Discussion of Agenda items

On MHCC membership, we greeted prospective member John Ackerman, who has applied to join us.

Several Star Lake topics were discussed: Dave indicated he has no feedback from Sen. Terry Williams. Members encouraged Dave to restart communication with him. We discussed fund raising, and the recent communication with the Community Association on that topic. Details regarding our cooperation with them need to be worked out. In terms of focus we discussed amortizing/using Robert's harvester, processing of weeds (though they are virtually self-composting), and Beach Park development. Phil L. and Alex will work to formulate methods and tactics for attracting donations. On Beach Park tree removal, the question "Whose responsibility is it?" was, in the absence of Phil C., the extent of our conversation. On Beach Park recreation, Alex suggested consideration of seasonal (a volleyball setup, for example) efforts along with more permanent ones (such as a bocce court) to encourage use of the area.

Regarding the Recreation Committee, Dave said he would be assessing the need for markings and other enhancements for the Syria trails, and the idea of developing further trails on public and on private land. The latter topic received extended discussion among members.

Dave mentioned that the sighing of ash borers near Buttermilk Falls makes the treatment program more urgent. We reviewed the current procedures, and Alex suggested a possible May/June educational outreach event to increase awareness.

Regarding ChitChat, we noted Sue's suggestion that the MHCC use the News Flash for weekly communiques, and compile them monthly into a monthly contribution. No decision was made about this, or about details of handling an April submission.

Under New/Other, Alex told us of her current "bear ambassador" training, and her interest in sharing information about what landowners can do to combat/control invasive plants.

Action Items

- Dave to follow up with Terry Williams – ball cap included.
- Jean and Phil L. to generate cost list for Recreation Area plantings.
- Members to prepare contributions for the next ChitChat issue. COORDINATION NEEDED.
- Phil L. and Alex to continue work on fundraising liaison with the Community Association.
- Phil L. to report to Selectboard with emphasis on Beach Park trees – planting and removal.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5.

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