

Mount Holly Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the
7:07 pm by Phil Crane in the Community Room below the library.

Phil Crane, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Megan Litwhiler, Phil Leonard, Jim Corven, Peter Smith (until 8:05), Susan Presson, Dave Martin.

After adding “composting”, the meeting agenda was approved.

The minutes from May 7, 2024 were approved as circulated.

Jim reported about the July 15 Energy Fair. Both vendors and attendees had positive responses, and some energy audits have been arranged. The number of dinner tickets not being available, it is not clear how much money remains in the grant. If the balance is sufficient (say, \$1,500) purchase of a loanable infrared camera could be considered. The only concern about the Energy Fair was that mainly the “already converted” attended. Megan suggested that remaining funds might be used toward alternate methods of publicizing energy saving measures.

We had an extended discussion about Star Lake, centered on the need to develop a management plan with a variety of options. Sue suggested seeking to identify **the one thing** that would capture public attention. Dave said that a concrete permitted activity could be used to help launch fundraising. Peter mentioned the availability of photographs, both from older history and from the mid-20th century, in the Historical Society collection. These could document a clear lake, as well as recreational uses of the same. Jean said we must do **something**, and suggested a series of ChitChat pieces to help raise community awareness. Jim advocated looking into harvesting vegetation as a crop, providing a resource for composters. Megan suggested learning more about long term issues as viewed by the State of Vermont.

Recreation Commission proposal

There has been no feedback from the Select Board about a Recreation Commission suggestion. The same is true about water testing.

Ash borer mitigation

Phil C. reported that the injection project is proceeding apace.

Jim reported that all 20 Soil Saver compost bins we acquired have been sold. Adding in the 5 brought to the Energy Fair by Desna Jackson of the RCSWD, there are now 25 additional bins in use in Mount Holly. He also reported \$280 per month as the cost of hauling food waste from the transfer station, and a comment by Diana Garrow suggesting a composting toilet at the transfer station. Sue asked if we might recommend a town composting site at the transfer station.

Action Items

- Members to assist one another in brainstorming and publicity regarding Star Lake.
- Increase iNaturalist observations around Star Lake, and stay abreast of the ongoing plant study.
- Bring discussion of Recreation Commission to Selectboard meeting (apparently as an agenda item).
- Determine status of Star Lake water testing at Selectboard meeting and request regular reporting in ChitChat and Newsflash.

The MHCC will next meet on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 7:00 pm, with agenda provided in advance.

Phil C. declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk.