

Mount Holly Conservation Commission (MHCC)

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the
7:05pm by Phil Crane in the Community Room below the library.

Phil C. asked about possible effects of the passage of S.55 regarding public meetings. He indicated that the major portion of tonight's meeting would concern the coming Energy Fair.

Phil Crane, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Megan Litwhiler (from 7:52), Phil Leonard, Jim Corven, Peter Smith, Susan Presson, Dave Martin (from 7:42). Guests: Dave Tilly and daughter Alissa (until 7:22).

After brief conversation, the meeting agenda was approved.

The minutes from May 7, 2024 were approved with minor corrections noted.

Star Lake update

Phil C. advanced this item so that guests would not need to stay for the entire meeting. Jean asked about the possibility of an earlier installation of the bottom barriers this year because of the early emergence of vegetation in the lake.

Dave Tilly mentioned two items regarding Star Lake. The first is that he has had conversations with several people in the course of working on the General Store, expressing interest in, and willingness to support, improving the condition of the lake. The second is that he has discussed the lake with an environmental company specializing in clearing vegetation from Vermont lakes. They indicated an estimate cost of \$50K to \$60K for a Star Lake intervention. He did not have further details, but will make them available.

Jim reported that the vegetation study has begun, with reports from Michael Lew-Smith indicating that phosphate levels are much as they have been for the past 8 years or so. Michael will inform us when he is coming so that interested members of the Commission and of the Trust can take part in the observations. We discussed water testing for the swimming area, and posting results on the lake bulletin board. There was also brief talk about septic systems around the lake. Finally, Susan reported seeing eagles at Star Lake in April.

Energy Fair coming July 15

Jim discussed tasks for the Energy Fair to be held on Saturday, June 15. He circulated a sign up sheet so that members could indicate areas where they are willing to help. Jim also provided updates about the day's events, and asked for help with publicity in advance of the Energy Fair.

Possible Recreation Commission

Phil C. and Dave plan to draft a letter aimed at getting a “Sense of the Select Board” regarding the establishment of a Mount Holly Recreation Commission.

Ash Borer Mitigation

This continuing program will soon restart, with assistance provided by Paul Frazier and, to some extent, by Tim Bickford..

Doolittle Parcel

Members reported that some attended the ceremony hosted by the Conservation Trust marking the Doolittle parcel. There is now a Wilderness Management Area sign marking the property, which is located along VT 100 in Mount Holly and Weston.

Other and New Business

A limited number of Soil Saver bins for composting will be made available to Mount Holly residents to purchase for \$50 each. Forthcoming NewsFlash issues will announce their availability.

Action Items

- Phil C. and Dave address Select Board about a possible Recreation Commission.
- Follow up on Tilly visit and obtain contact information about the firm he mentioned.
- Increase iNaturalist observations around Star Lake, and stay abreast of the plant study as it proceeds.
- All members prepare to assist in the June 15 Energy Fair.

Next Meeting

The MHCC will next meet on Tuesday, July 2, 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.