

Mount Holly Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

The regular January meeting of the
5:38 pm by Phil Crane. It was held in the Community Room below the Library.
Members of the Recreation Committee had been invited to attend.

In person: David Martin, Peter Smith, Jeanmarie Fitzgerald, Phil Crane, Sue Presson, Phil Leonard,
Megan Litwhiler, Alexandra Yuster. Via ZOOM: Brigid Sullivan, Abe Leber, Leslie Colm.

The meeting agenda was discussed and reordered to prioritize Star Lake planning once organizational
items were handled.

There were only 4 members present on December 3. No quorum, no official meeting, so no minutes.

Treasurer's Report

There was no treasurer's report presented at this meeting.

Organizational items

The Commission considered the question of time and place for future meetings. After discussion of
alternatives, it was decided by vote to hold our monthly meetings as follows:

Day: First Tuesday of each month (as has been customary)

Time: 6:00 pm (change from previous time)

Place: Town Office (to facilitate remote attendance) - to be confirmed.

Some training about using the Town Office AV equipment will be needed in order to use Zoom on this
equipment. Megan L. and Alex Y. volunteered to be trained.

Star Lake Planning

Dave moderated discussion of Star Lake plans, first presenting an annotated map based on
descriptions sent by Phil L. The map indicated a first-stage, and a second-stage area for efforts to
improve swimming and boating access from the south end of the lake. Dave had added lines
indicating where paths might be cleared to provide boat access to the state-owned shoreline at the
north end of the lake. Discussion proceeded along three lines, the water body itself, the town park,
and an "order of play" for future planning. It was agreed that further development of these ideas
should aim to be compatible with and build on the Mount Holly Town Plan and Belmont Village Plan.

Proposals for the water body:

Increase bottom barrier coverage in the permitted area. This would entail acquiring more barriers as well as increased annual costs for installing/removing them.

Make greater use of hand pulling, which does not require permitting. Phil L. thinks it might help to concentrate on areas where springs feed the lake.

Explore mowing/mechanical harvesting of lanes for boating and of phragmites affecting the dry hydrants on Lake Street. (Issues include permits, and the undesirability of fragmenting milfoil.)

Clarify parameters for measures that property owners are allowed to employ near their docks and shorelines.

Proposals for the beach park area:

Develop ideas for facilities and activities (such as bocce, horseshoes volleyball, playground).

Plantings to provide shade and to reduce runoff.

Ensure compatibility with the Mount Holly Town Plan and Belmont Village Plan.

Order of play:

1. Review Town Plan & related survey to identify Star Lake ideas.
2. Building on Town Plan and survey findings and ideas discussed to date by MHCC, identify key issues related to lake, planting and recreation aspects that will/should be included in a survey.
3. Develop, administer and report on a survey about Star Lake considerations.
4. Hold a public meeting concerning Star Lake issues and plans.

ChitChat

Sue will prepare material for a February article.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the MHCC will be held on Tuesday, February 4, at 6 pm.

Adjournment

As members indicated no further items, Phil Crane declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Phil Leonard, clerk, with assistance from Alex Yuster.