

Mount Holly Conservation Commission
Meeting of March 5, 2025
Minutes

Opening

The March meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was held at the Town Office and by ZOOM on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, because the first Tuesday was devoted to Town elections. Phil Crane called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Attending in person were Phil Crane, Jean Fitzgerald, Sue Presson, and by ZOOM were Peter Smith, Alex Yuster and Phil Leonard.

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda document was approved, with a request to hold Star Lake discussion early in the meeting. After noting needed corrections, the minutes from the February 4 meeting were approved. Jean and Alex agreed to contribute notes for March 5 minutes. It was noted that the regular meeting time needs to be updated on the mounthollyvt.org site.

Discussion

Sue began by commending Jeanmarie for her excellent effort in preparing the AARP grant application aimed at developing the Star Lake Recreation Area for submission.

Members agreed that we should continue on Star Lake planning, and seek other sources of funds in support of our efforts.

Alex brought up, and members discussed, our plan for a public meeting, preferably in April but possibly in May, regarding planned initiatives for Star Lake. We welcome the Community Association's expressed interest in being involved in these activities. It will be important to explore Odd Fellows Hall availability in a timely manner because of ChitChat deadlines for publicity.

Phil L. mentioned that Caitlin Boyle had forwarded information about the Vermont DEC Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid Program for 2025. There is a March 21 deadline for proposal submission, to be preceded by a remote workshop (via Microsoft Teams) on Wednesday, March 11, from 10 to noon. Phil L. will plan to join the workshop, and would like some fellow commissioners to join him.

Phil L. commented that the coming May-June period is one in which "hands on" help in weed control will be needed, and suggested that the next ChirChat piece should include a call for assistance.

Phil C. said that he will want to start 2025 Ash Borer inoculation efforts as soon as the trees develop their readiness to benefit from treatment. He indicated that Paul Frazier does not wish to continue his role in this program, and that Paul's participation will be greatly missed.

Alex confirmed that she has signed the MHCC up for 2 years of membership in the Vermont Assn. Of Conservation Commissions. She said she would confirm that we are duly registered, and that contact information for each of us is with the Association.

Action Items

- Determine when Odd Fellows Hall will open for the season so meetings can be planned.
- Share information about Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid Program and assemble a few commissioners to attend March 11 workshop.

- ChitChat piece to include recruitment of “in the water” volunteers.
- Continue work on Star Lake planning, including a Lake Wise Action Plan as needed for permitting.
- Plan for Public Meeting, with cooperation of Community Association board members.
- Resume ash tree treatment when conditions allow.
- Correct meeting time entry on mounthollyvt.org

Next Meeting

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, at 6 pm in the Town Office.

Adjournment

Adjournment occurred at approximately 6:40 pm.

Minutes prepared by Alex, Jeanmarie and Phil L. and submitted by Phil Leonard, Clerk.