

Mount Holly Conservation Commission Minutes - Meeting of June 2, 2026

Opening

The June 2026 meeting of the Mount Holly Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 in the Town Office. Chair Phil Crane called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm

Members attending in person were Phil Crane, Peter Smith (from 6:16), Phil Leonard, Alex Yuster, and Dave Martin. John Ackerman attended via ZOOM.

Agenda and Minutes

Agenda was adopted after adding “ANR Request”, and draft minutes from May 2026 were approved.

Discussion of Agenda items

Phil Crane reported on attending the Urban and Community Forest annual meeting, and distributed some related literature. He noted in particular the Beech Leaf Disease item, and spoke about the ash borer as likely present even where not yet reported. He mentioned a resource of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development as possibly helpful toward grant writing associated with recreation. See <https://accd.vermont.gov/>

Phil Leonard proposed June 13 and 27 as Star Lake cleanup days, and the Commission agreed. Phil will publicize these, aided by Alex via social media.

Dave gave an updated on a (postponed) visit from Sen. Terry Williams. We discussed what we would prioritize in a meeting with a Vermont “policy person”, namely (in order of preference), rolling back the wetlands classification of Star Lake, adding “mowing weeds” to the list of activities not requiring a wetlands permit, or waiving the fee for us to apply for a wetlands permit to open kayak pathways. We noted the fact that wetlands classification seems to be a creeping activity in Vermont these days. [On June 3, Dave forwarded to MHCC members an email conversation about these matters.]

We discussed briefly the idea of a Mount Holly town forest and, in this context, brought up the Star Lake Wildlife Management Area and the Yale Forest. Peter mentioned that the latter is managed by the Yale University Department of Forestry.

Alex reported on her gathering to deal with Japanese Barberry, about poison parsnip as a focus for Mount Holly/Shrewsbury efforts, and about a statewide project to map chervil occurrences in Vermont.

Phil Crane indicated that he is willing to do the next ChitChat submission, due June 22 for the July newsletter. Members should send him materials in a timely manner.

Dave spoke about an upcoming ANR event to be held next Tuesday, June 9, from 5:30-7:30 pm. The topic will be the Agency’s rules for managing lands under its jurisdiction.

Town Office staffing status (Mark Miller as Interim Treasurer, Faith Tempest as Selectboard Clerk and as Planning Commission Admin. Officer and Clerk) received a quick review.

Action Items

- Phil L. to announce (with Alex to publicize) Star Lake cleanups for June 13, 27.
- Phil C. to prepare contributions for the next Chit Chat issue. COORDINATION NEEDED.
- Members to join in the Star Lake cleanup activities.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7.

Adjournment occurred at 6:48 pm. Minutes prepared and submitted by Phil Leonard, Clerk