

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2023
Hamburg Village Hall, 100 Main St., Hamburg, NY 14075

Present: Commission Members: Village Board Liaison - Holly Park, Chair- Adrienne Punturiero, Andy Schrauth, Kim Bourke, Kathryn Walsh, Mike Reilly

Guest: Nancy Patrus

Excused: Mary Mack, Stuart Wheaton

Special Guests: Jason Cozza, Village Administrator; Derik Kane, LaBella; Ed Flynn, LaBella

Bird Sanctuary Bridge

- Jason Cozza and two associates from LaBella joined for the first hour of the meeting to discuss the bridge project and potential funding sources
 - Some issues they brought up for us to consider:
 - Accurate cost estimates are incredibly important for procuring grant funding
 - Right of way issues could be a hang-up, we need to check on all of our trails and paths to make sure this won't be an issue, and if it is, work thorough them
 - We will need to check on building in floodways, and creek banks in terms of permitting and timing of construction (Check with Army Corp of Engineers, or Erie County Soil and Water district, other places?)
 - Make sure bridge is supported by the community (we need to think of ways to spread the word on the bridge)
 - We will need a board resolution to make sure the Village is open to committing to grant matching
 - ADA accessibility is going to be an issue, and something we will need to think seriously about
- Pre-engineering, feasibility study, and cost analysis work needs to be done again in order for our bridge to be competitive in receiving grant funding
 - We will likely hire this work out, and could look into Ralph Wilson Jr. funding to hire a design firm to do this work
- Potential Funding Sources:
 - TAP Grants
 - SAM Grants - Grants funded through state assemblypersons (Jonathan Rivera), and State Senators
 - Ralph Wilson Jr. Fund grants
 - EPF Grants
 - Climate Smart Communities Grants
 - Recreational Trails Program
 - DEC Community Smart Grants
- Could Bridge be part of the Sesquicentennial celebration somehow? As a monument, perhaps?

ACTIONS:

1. LaBella will look into DEC Community Smart Grants, and Ralph Wilson Jr. Funding guidelines
2. Lyn Mason is getting survey data to Kat about potential switch back or other trail options from Overlook park down to a potential bridge spot
3. Jason Cozza will find the deed for the Bird Sanctuary to see if there are restrictions on building or developing trails and bridges on the land

Budget

- Bird Sanctuary tree sculpture is scheduled for June 16 and 17. Cost: \$2,000
- Can Liners for trash bins will be preemptively ordered (4 of them) to be used as needed

ACTIONS:

1. Jason and Adrienne will look into ordering trash can liners, and storing with the DPW

No Mow May/ Earthday Enlightenment at the Library

- Event was well received by guests
- Panel members: Joyce Fanning, Lyn Chimera, and Lisa Harrington all did a wonderful job.
- Joyce could be a resource on pesticide outreach for our group going forward

Anna Mae Bacon Sanctuary Clean up Day

- 20-25 people volunteered
- Kiosk was repaired, and is now standing again
- DPW provided 10 yards of wood chips, and 10 yards of millings for trails
- Dave Zalikowski used his tractor to spread millings and wood chips

Other AMBS news:

- Kat's girl scout troop will be installing their fairy doors in the woods on May 24th, there will be markers to lead hikers to the spot
- ACTION: Kat is going to make a flyer to promote the tree carving on June 16/17th

Membership

- Group limit is currently at seven members
- We could establish a sub-committee to allow more volunteers to help us out
- Gerry Stockmeyer will likely replace Mary Mack, as she is intending to relinquish her post

ACTION: Holly will look into whether or not we can expand our pledged members from seven to nine members

Recent Group Requests

- Adrienne put in work orders to DPW to remove the recycle bins in front of Village Hall, by the Gazebo in Centennial Park, and in the Trolley Park, as they are all unsightly
- Adrienne asked DPW to include advice on the detriment of volcano mulching newly planted trees on the handout passed out to homeowners who receive a DPW planted tree
- Adrienne requested wood chips and millings for the Bird Sanctuary, and requested hazard trees be removed from over the trails within the sanctuary

Other Notes

- May 10, 7:00 pm Re-Tree Hamburg is having a meeting about the group work during the Sesquicentennial, will our group chair or co-chair the tree planting event(s)
- Kat's Town of Hamburg Trails group had their initial meeting on April 24th, anyone can join the meetings. The next one is scheduled form May 13, 10am in Hampton Brook Woods (Field Trip meeting)
- Holly was voted onto the Erie County Environmental Management Council, their next meeting is may 16th at the Erie County Fire Training Center

ACTIONS: Andy will call about the Tom Collins Memorial Tree

Next meeting date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at Hamburg Village Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke