

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday, July 5, 2023  
Hamburg Village Hall, 100 Main St., Hamburg, NY 14075

**Present:** Commission Members: Village Board Liaison - Holly Park, Chair- Adrienne Punturiero, Andy Schrauth, Stu Wheaton, Kim Bourke

**Excused:** Kathryn Walsh, Mike Reilly, Gerry Stockmeyer

**General Notes:**

- Week of 7/11, Holly will be meeting with Jason K. From UBRI and Jason Cozza about the Clean Energy Community grant money
- Mark Shuttleworth has reported back that the dual trash/recycling bin in front of Village Hall has been fixed
- Do we need a special permit or blessing from the board to have a ECC website?
- Holly attended her first Erie County Environmental Management Council meeting (county compost field trip) as a new member, replacing Andy. Kudos to Andy for his many years of volunteer service to the ECEMC!
- Jim Bitten (graphic designer) suggested we should have a logo to represent either our group or the bird sanctuary (or both)

**Tree Sculpture/ Bird Sanctuary**

- Sculpting weekend went well, lots of visitors
- Unsure if board approved of the \$2,000...?
- Lots of media on the sculpture, and our group including the Sun and Village Instagram
- Andy and Dom put the first coat of sealer on the sculpture on Sunday 6/17. It will require two more coats this summer, then one coat annually for upkeep.
- Jason Cozza will get info to Adrienne about Epoxy
- There may or may not be a colony of carpenter ants in the base of the sculpture. We will keep an eye out on that.
- Can we put up a trail counter or some other way to keep track of how many people are using the trails (Via QR code, or trail counter?)
- Can we get a plaque or interpretive panel down by the sculpture? Perhaps the Story of Anna Mae and how the sanctuary came to be?
  - We could incorporate this in with the sesquicentennial
  - Could we fundraise for this through the sesquicentennial?
- There was concern from a resident about handicapped residents not able to see sculpture; wondered if center rock could be moved a little down the entrance path so a vehicle can pull in far enough to see it. Commission voted against that idea, citing issues that may occur with vehicles not noticing the rock until too late, etc. Members will try to come up with other ideas/options.
- Kim suggested Bird Sanctuary Management Plan; she will take the lead on this. Step One - Vegetation survey to be done in sections at the end of Aug/early Sept.

**ACTIONS:**

1. Look into trail counter or some other way to monitor visitor numbers at the sanctuary

**Trees**

- Planting in the fall, could we get gators to fill them up for watering?
  - Can we use our budget for this?
  - Gators are about \$20 each

**Re-Tree/Sesquicentennial**

- Group goal is to get 150 people to donate \$150 each to plant a tree, and be recorded in a document recognizing the 150 year celebration
  - Could this be included in The Focus somehow? Get school kids involved?
- Can we do something environmentally friendly at the Picnic? Potential ideas: Reading of the Lorax, Tree ID/nature bingo
- Next re-tree meeting 8/8/23, 7pm at 71 Rosedale Ave. All are welcome

**Bridge**

- Need to look into getting a Use and Occupancy permit from the DOT for that small section of DOT land between Overlook Park and where the bridge will be (Switchback locale)
- Meeting with Lin from the Community Foundation will be August 18th at 1:00, to discuss our project and how funding from the community foundation will help us meet our goals, and why they should fund us!!

**ACTION:**

1. Andy will get info on who to contact at DOT about a Use and Occupancy permit. Kim will contact them.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at Hamburg Village Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke