

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, August 1, 2023
Hamburg Village Hall, 100 Main St., Hamburg, NY 14075

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

Excused: none

Absent: Stu Wheaton

Guests: Jason Kulaszewski, Matt Bourke (discussing Climate Smart and Clean Energy Communities)

General Notes:

- Holly is planning to share the map of the new Village Parking lot with the group once she has a copy of it
- There will a Community Workshop to discuss the McKinley Pkwy and Clark Street intersection (Potentially a future site of a roundabout). Mtg is at Hamburg Town Hall on Saturday, August 12 from 9:30-11:30 am. Registration required to attend.
- First Hamburg Composting group meeting went well, the next meeting will take place at Hamburg Town Hall on Friday, August 18 at 1:00 pm

Climate Smart/Clean Energy Communities (CSC/CEC)

- Jason K. Reviewed the process of certification for our Climate Smart application
 - We, as a Village, submitted 128 points (120 needed for Bronze Certification)
 - We should hear back on September 8, 2023 (may be pushed back) on whether or not we achieved bronze certification
- Holly met with Jason K. And Jason C. About getting funding for the village through the CSC/CEC grant programs (we are already qualified for some, but need to do a few more things to qualify for larger grants)
- For more points in both programs (get us to silver certification in CSC), and to qualify for more grants through the CEC, our group could consider doing a public outreach campaign for 1. heat-pump, 2. solar energy installation, or 3. getting village residents signed up to have some of their energy come from local Solar companies
 - Our group would coordinate all of this outreach by:
 - Choosing one of the three options, and writing up a scoping document about the goals of our campaign, then with the help of Jason K. Putting out an RFP to find a contractor help us to actually do the installations or sign-ups
 - We would then set up the community outreach events where we could have village residents interact with the contractor(s)
- Can we tie this work (solar and heat pump installation) with upcoming Federal rebates?
- For CSC silver certification we need 3 more priority actions and 300 total points
 1. electric car chargers (in progress)
 2. Aforementioned campaigns
 3. ??? Unclear as of this point in time...

- Next steps/timing:
 - Can we do this before winter?
 - Step 1: get board approval for the campaign and RFP process
 - Step 2: start a shared scoping document (started by Jason K. And Holly)
 - Step 3: put out the RFP
 - Step 4: interview then choose a contractor (one for each campaign - we are thinking of doing signing up for Solar, and electric air source heat pump installation first)
 - Step 5: plan community outreach events
 - ** NYSERTA needs to approve our campaign before we can be “official”

ACTIONS:

1. Holly needs to get board approval for the campaign and RFP process

Questions for Mark Shuttleworth

- Mark was NOT at the meeting but a few questions our commission has for him are:
 1. Can we get the hazardous tree leaning over the main path in the Bird Sanctuary removed?
 2. Can we do any more to improve the trash/recycling bin in front of Village Hall?
 3. Is the DPW planning on brush hogging the meadow at the Bird Sanctuary? We would prefer them NOT to do that.
 4. Can we purchase Gators for newly planted trees that will be placed on land that no one takes responsibility for? Dom has offered to fill them, hopefully they can help these trees survive

Plaque for Tom

- No new updates here
- Stu and Andy need to speak with the family
- Only 4 more Village Concerts this summer, if they are hoping to do the ceremony before or after one of these events

Bridge

- Meeting with Lin from the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo is scheduled for August 25th at 1:00 at the Bird Sanctuary
- We still need to get the information to contact the DOT about the land between Overlook park and 18 Mile Creek (which is owned by the DOT)

ACTION:

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

Bird Sanctuary

- We will be adding a sign in sheet at the entrance kiosk of the Bird Sanctuary (hopefully this week)
- Vegetation survey will take place at the end of August/ Beginning of September to get baseline data of the plants within the Bird Sanctuary

- Kim is writing up a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that outlines how the vegetation will be sampled
- We plan to sample both herbaceous plants, and trees (using separate, appropriate methods)
- Some supplies will need to be purchased or borrowed in order to complete sampling
- Chris and Marty Snyder want to make a donation to the NPA, do we have any ideas how that could be most helpful

ACTIONS:

1. Kat will print the sign in sheets, and laminate the info sheet
2. Gerry will install the info sheet once we have a piece of plexiglass to cover it
3. Kim will send out an email to figure out best sampling dates

Tree Sculpture

- Dom put another coat of sealant on the sculpture, it will need one more before winter comes
- Sculpture will need one coat per year going forward to keep up maintenance
- Village will purchase the sealant we need

Plaque/informational panel for sculpture

- We would like to potentially make this a sesquicentennial project. The idea is to add a plaque near the sculpture that explains who Anna May was, and why this plot of land in the village is important
- Next “Sesqui” meeting will be at 6:30 on Thursday, August 17th (Location TBD)

Sesquicentennial

- Our group should continue brainstorming for an idea of an environmentally friendly idea for the picnic
- Picnic will be on the last Sunday in June (2024)
 - Current ideas include:
 - Planting a tree and having a ceremony
 - Tree ID tour of the park where picnic will be (Glen Meadows)
 - Book reading of the Lorax
 - Bring in Freddie the Gnome
 - Tree or nature Bingo with small (eco friendly) prizes

Commission Website

- Holly brought up the idea with the Village board, they weren't crazy about the idea, so it is on pause now
- Holly will be meeting with Jason C. And Jaycee (spelling???) from the Village Rec about Village Social Media
- Village of Hamburg Facebook page has been created, but is not live yet
- Village website is going to be updated in the near future

Next meeting date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Location is unconfirmed as of 8/2/23 due to that meeting being so close to Labor Day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke