

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday, September 5, 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, Gerry Stockmeyer

**Excused:** n/a

**Absent:** Stu Wheaton

**Guest:** Matt Bourke

**General Notes:**

- Andy is working through the fall tree planting list for the Village, he is about 1/2 to 3/4 of the way through the list, there are 42 tree requests on the list in total
  - Andy was encouraged to delegate some steps needed to getting trees assigned to homeowners to our committee members, or to the Re-Tree committee to alleviate some of his workload
- We need to look into having the Village apply to become a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) community through the Department of State. This designation can help our community access many grant opportunities for ecological restoration, trails, and other 18 mile creek related projects.

**Climate Smart Communities:**

- The state's certification decision should come out this week, and we should be all set to be recognized as a Bronze Level Climate Smart Community
- The environmental Commission members agreed to form a subcommittee to tackle the bulk of all things related to Climate Smart and Clean Energy Community work, as the time commitment is too great for our group to do along with everything else we have going on
  - The next task for this newly formed sub committee will be to work on the scoping documents for the community campaign for community solar and/or clean heating and cooling
  - Matt Bourke will head this sub committee, it would be ideal to have 5-7 people included
  - The sub committee will have its next meeting with Jason Kulaszewski
  - A member of the sub committee will report back to the Environmental Commission at each of the Commission's meetings.

**Compost:**

- The Town of Hamburg is attempting to get 100 people signed up for a household composting pilot program
- The town is looking for volunteers to man a tent at the Village Farmers' Market on Saturdays (Beginning on Saturday 9/16/2023, 2 shifts each Saturday) to inform residents about the program
- The pilot will run for 1 year, in conjunction with Farmer Pirates (A Buffalo composting company)
- Holly will forward the volunteer sign up sheet to our group so anyone can sign up

### **Tom Collins Plaque:**

- No real updates, his family needs to be contacted, a date needs to be chosen to dedicate the tree that has already been planted, with a plaque

#### **ACTIONS:**

1. Holly will message the DPW to see if they can attach Tom's plaque to a stone and deliver it to the ceremony site
2. Adrienne will reach out to Tom's family (Sue) and see if they can get a date set for sometime in late September or October to do the ceremony.

### **Bird Sanctuary:**

- Vegetation Sampling has been completed in the meadow, and on one of the two forest transects
- A second forest transect will be sampled the third weekend in September
- The Bird Sanctuary sign in sheet was installed (by Gerry Stockmeyer) at the beginning of August. It is located next to the Kiosk. So far it has been quite successful, and we are averaging about 20 visitors a week on the sign in sheet.

ACTION: Kim will email about setting up a third and final vegetation sampling date

### **Bridge:**

- Adrienne, Kat, and Kim met with Logan Bessel, Dan Riker, and Tim Hughes from C&S Companies about the Bridge.
- They are interested in pursuing a bid if we put out an RFP for a pre-engineering study/feasibility study for the bridge in the Bird Sanctuary
- Other ideas they brought up:
  - ADA access wouldn't have to be down the slope by Overlook Park, it could be from the Crescent St. entrance TO the bridge (Bridge would be the end point of ADA trail)
  - Think about some sort of ADA viewing platform in association with the bridge too?
- Members of the commission, and Jason Cozza, met with Ba Zan Lin from the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, to discuss applying for funding for a \$50,000 grant through the Ralph Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds. The meeting went very well, Lin seemed excited about our vision for the bridge and trails network to connect the village to green spaces.
- Holly will bring this grant application process up with the Board to get their approval
- Lin will send Kim information on the application process in October or November. We will then begin working on putting together the application as a group

Next meeting date: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at Hamburg Village Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke