

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday, October 3, 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, Stu Wheaton

**Excused:** n/a

**Absent:** n/a

**Guest:** n/a

General Notes:

- Hamburg Sun published an article about “Fall things to do in the Village” and visiting the Bird Sanctuary made the list!
- Hamburg Town compost pilot program is at capacity after two Saturdays of recruiting participants at the Hamburg Farmer’s Market - LOTS of interest in the program.
- Hamburg Trails meeting coming up on October 19th at 7:00 pm (Location TBD)
- Holly met with Dr. Phil Stokes at Penn Dixie, he is interested in doing some sort of presentation about nuisance wildlife in population centers (or something related) as he is currently dealing with the issue on the Penn Dixie property with coyotes.
  - Could we do another Library panel on this topic?

**ACTION:** Holly will book the Erie County Gnome for us for Earth Day 2024 (April 20th)

Climate Smart:

- VILLAGE OF HAMBURG IS OFFICIALLY BRONZE CERTIFIED!
- Certification is good for 5 years, in that time we plan to work toward silver certification
  - The next steps in reaching that goal are forming the climate smart sub committee, and beginning work on the solar credit and heat pump community campaigns.

Tom Collins’ Memorial

- Scheduled for Saturday, October 7th at 11:00 am at Memorial park in the Village.
- Plaque has been dropped off with the DPW, stone should get there this week, in preparation for the event on Saturday.

**ACTION:** Holly will email Village admin and Village trustees to invite them to the event. Any other commission members who can think of folks that might appreciate an invite are free to reach out as well.

Village Newsletter

- Adrienne will submit an articles mentioning a few of our projects including the sculpture at the Bird Sanctuary, fall tree plantings and work days at the Bird Sanctuary.

Tree Planting

- Andy is almost done contacting residents who have requested a tree through the Village.
- DPW doesn't have tree stakes yet, so planting can no begin yet
- Andy will put a tree order in soon, (with a few different nurseries)
- Trees will hopefully be planted during the end of October and beginning of November
- We are considering experimenting with a few tree gaiters around trees that are located on public property (and therefore less likely to be cared for/watered)
  - Dom Punturiero has offered to fill the gaiters
- RE-TREE committee: Andy went to the last meeting, and is planning on putting a blurb in the Village newsletter about the "150" tree project for the sesquicentennial

### Bird Sanctuary

- Adrienne mentioned a DEC grant that no one else seemed familiar with - she will email out details after meeting
- Bird Sanctuary sign in sheet is doing great, we are still filling up about 1 page per week (about 20 visits per page)
- Baseline vegetation data has been collected, Kim has not had a chance to analyze data yet
  - Baseline data could be used to establish a management plan for the sanctuary, and as a datapoint to help with funding for the sanctuary in the future
- Group would like to install a descriptive plaque about Anna Mae and how the sanctuary came to be near the bird sculpture (could we use our budget for this? We are unsure of the cost of a plaque)
- Time Mcallister did the info for the plaque about the sanctuary located at Overlook point - can we reach out to him?
- Could we have scouts do more projects in the Sanctuary?

ACTIONS: 1. Gerry will look into where to get an informational plaque, and how much they cost  
 2. Kat is going to look into the cost of a new "Welcome kiosk"  
 3. Stu will contact scout leaders to see if there is any interest in doing a project (or more) down in the bird sanctuary

### Bridge

- We are waiting on Lin (at Community Foundation) to send the grant application information to Kim, it should be available toward the end of October/beginning of November
- Kim has been in contact with Patricia Mitalski (Real estate specialist) at the DOT about how to handle the plot of land where the path to the bridge (and maybe even the bridge) will be located. Could the DOT deed that land back to the Village?

### Budget

- Budget use ideas that came up during the meeting:
  1. New Bird Sanctuary Kiosk
  2. Informational plaque about Anna Mae near the Bird Sanctuary tree carving
  3. Tree gaiters for trees DPW plants that are not on personal properties (and therefore less likely to be watered)

ACTION: Kim will email Jason Cozza about ordering tree gaiters

Next meeting date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at Hamburg Village Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke