

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, November 7, 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: n/a

General Notes:

- Tom Collins's memorial to dedicate a tree and plaque in his honor and ten+ years of service on the environmental commission took place at Memorial Park on 10/7/23. Several dozen of his friends and family were in attendance.
- Dom added the 3rd and final coat of varnish to the bird sculpture in the Bird Sanctuary, from here on out, it will only need one coat per year
- Andy may need help placing stakes to convey to the DPW workers where to plant the street trees during the month of November (he is planning on placing stakes this weekend (11/11-11/12))
- Stu was supposed to contact scout leaders (unclear if this was done) about completing projects in the Bird Sanctuary some ideas include:
 - Bird/bat houses
 - Benches
 - Trail signs/markers

Climate Smart Communities:

- Community Campaign for community solar kick-off meeting will be held at the Hamburg Public Library meeting room from 4:00-5:00 pm on Friday, November 17, 2023
- This meeting is open to the public, and is intended for anyone interested in helping out with getting the community solar campaign within the Village up and running
- Kick-off meetings for the Electric Heat Pumps, and Electric cars will take place at a later date

ACTIONS:

1. Mike will tell his sunrise Rotary group about the meeting in case anyone is interested in attending
2. Adrienne will share the meeting date with the Imagine Hamburg group, in case anyone is interested in attending

Bird Sanctuary:

- Kim presented the data analysis she completed on the vegetation survey completed in the Bird Sanctuary this summer

- The main take away from the data is that there are many native species in the bird sanctuary, and the vegetation community is quite diverse in the forest and the meadow, however, there are many trees and invasive starting to grow in the meadow that will need to be managed so the meadow ecosystem doesn't become overgrown. Additionally, there are many invasives within the forest, that will also need to be managed so they do not overtake the entire forest floor.
- This data will be helpful in setting up a management plan for the bird sanctuary, and eventually securing grant funding to help eradicate and manage invasive plant species in the bird sanctuary.

Bridge:

- The grant application from the Ralph Wilson Jr. Legacy Funds through the Community Foundation is open as of 11/6/2023. It is due at 4:00 pm on 12/1/2023.
- We will be applying (as "the Village") for an amount of \$50,000 for a feasibility study for the bridge which will also include a land survey, and alternatives analysis for a variety of bridge styles
- Kim started a document in Google Docs with all of the questions that will be needed to complete the application, any ECC member should have the ability to edit or add information into this grant rough draft.

ACTION: This grant needs to be completed and turned in before our next meeting. Kim will take the lead on this, but other members should also contribute brainstorming ideas in the Google Doc.

Budget:

- Our commission has \$6,700 left in our account that has accrued over the past two years, we discussed a variety of projects we could potentially use this money for over the next 6-12 months.
 1. A new Kiosk at the Bird Sanctuary
 1. Kat looked into the kiosk, and found someone who could make and install one for us for **\$3,000** (we will likely need to get a few more quotes on these), everyone liked this idea for a portion of our budget
 2. This kiosk (and the \$3,000 price tag) would include a small plaque about the history of the Bird Sanctuary land
 2. DPW tree planting materials (Cost: **\$1,500**) for the 150 sesquicentennial trees to be purchased by village residents.
 1. The idea is for our commission to print out a concise flyer about how to care for a newly planted tree, and include a donated tree gaiter to make watering easier. Both items would be delivered personally by our group and be "on behalf of the Village Environmental Commission."
 3. We could buy new, native, bare-root trees to plant in the bird sanctuary (one for each environmental commission member, totaling 8 trees, Cost: **\$1,000**).
 4. We could purchase a ceremonial tree for the sesquicentennial ceremony, and include a small plaque recognizing our commission's involvement with the village and celebration (total of **\$500** for tree and plaque)

Anna Mae Bacon History:

- Gerry gave us a historical account of Anna Mae Bacon and her connection to the Bird Sanctuary, he has been researching the history of the land, in hopes of finding pertinent information to include on an informational plaque that may be included with the new kiosk
- Among other information he reported that:
 - The bird sanctuary was not named for Anna Mae until 2003
 - It had been called the Hamburg Creekside Sanctuary up until the name change in 2003
 - Anna Mae was one of the 6 founding members of the Buffalo Audubon Society, who ultimately were the ones to suggest changing the name of the land to the Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary
 - The Girl and Boy Scouts have always had a hand in helping to manage the land that is now the Bird Sanctuary
- Relatedly: Gerry brought up the idea of establishing a conservation easement on the bird sanctuary land, in order to make sure it is never developed upon in future years. All group members were interested in this idea

Next meeting date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at Hamburg Village Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke