

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 2023 7:00 pm

Meeting was over Zoom due to the intense wind storm

**Present:** Commission Members: Village Board Liaison - Holly Park, Kathryn Walsh, Mike Reilly, Andy Schrauth, Kim Bourke, Gerry Stockmeyer

**Excused:** Chair- Adrienne Punturiero

**Absent:** Stu Wheaton

**Guest:** n/a

**General Notes:**

- n/a

**EMC Environmental Excellence Awards:**

- Nominations are due February 13, 2024.
- This will need to be submitted by the Village on the Commission's behalf
- Can/should we nominate multiple projects?
- If we nominate the Climate Smart Work, should we include (or at least mention) the other 2 communities in WNY that gained Bronze this past year?

**ACTION:** Holly is going to take this one on. She is going to develop a draft and send it out to the group. She will then take it to Jason Cozza/Village Admin to have them actually submit the nomination

**Trees:**

- Village Tree Management Plan will be updated by this group over the next few months. The last iteration was from 2014
- Kim asked everyone to look through and mark up the old plan with questions/edits they would like to discuss once we actually start updating
- Kim will meet with Marc Shuttleworth about trees to let him know we will be doing this, and find out what has been working or not working from the 2014 tree management plan for the DPW.
- Holly let the group know that Marc/DPW gets many complaints about the lack of trees in the Village

**ACTIONS:**

1. Kim will email out a PDF of the Tree Management plan so everyone has easy access to it and will be able to mark it up - if they so choose

2. Kim will reach out to Marc Shuttleworth and discuss the very important role the DPW plays in tree management in the Village
3. All ECC members- go through the tree management plan and mark it up! Questions you may have, edits you want the group to consider, etc.

### **Earth Day:**

- We would really like to focus in on trees during “Earth Month” this year. The idea is to tie in all the tree work with Earth Day/Month, our updating the Tree Management Plan, the Sesquicentennial, Hamburg Re-Tree, and the Village Environmental Commission
- An idea was presented and discussed to use the Palace Theater (rent it for a day for \$250 from our budget) and do an environmental movie screening, hand out info in the lobby and on the street about the importance of trees in the Village, have the Erie County gnome there, and just generally let people know that the Village has an Environmental Commission! (This event would take the place of our Library event we did last spring)
  - We should start getting a flyer put together for this event so we can advertise for it well in advance. The more people that hear about it, the more people (hopefully) show up!

### **ACTIONS:**

1. Holly is going to look into booking a gnome for a weekend in April (preferably the 20/21st).
2. Kat will look into booking the Palace for (hopefully) the same weekend
3. Andy will bring this idea up with Re-Tree to see if we can get them on board to help plan and spread the word on the event (and provide resources?)
4. Kim, and anyone else interested, will look for a movie that would be appropriate for this event-a movie to “light a fire” under residents about the importance of trees/native plantings, ecosystem health, etc.
5. We may need to meet a few times outside of our normal meetings to pull this off, these could be in person or via Zoom
6. We will need to make an eye catching flyer, and other informational materials we can hand out to the public about the importance of TREES!!!!

### **Bird Sanctuary:**

- Gerry presented the idea to the Commission about having the Bird Sanctuary (SBL: 196.09-3-19), and the 1.7 acres across the creek from it on S. Buffalo (SBL:196.09-3-25) street officially protected as Municipal Parkland. The properties are currently is classified as Class 311 -Residential Vacant Land. Reclassifying the land to Municipal Parkland (Class 963) would ensure that the property has many more legal protections against developers buying up the land for their own purposes
- Our intention is to present these arguments to the board at one of the next few Board meetings
- Do we need to consider any extra parks/DPW maintenance that might be added if it were to be declared an official park?
- Kat contacted another Kiosk maker to replace the Kiosk at the sanctuary, the quote was 4-5K
  - She is going to speak to one more person about kiosks and then bring the cost analyses to the group once she has everything put together.

## ACTIONS:

1. Kim will send out to the group the document that she and Gerry have put together listing out the arguments that will be presented to the Board
2. Any interested Commission members are welcome to join at the next Work Session of the Board (Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:30pm at Village Hall) to “unofficially” present this idea to the board members, so they will have the opportunity to discuss the plan before it is presented during a 7:00pm board meeting.

## **No-Mow May:**

- We would like to build on the work we did last year with No-Mow May. We would like to expand on the idea, and make sure people understand there are many more important ways to participate in “No-Mow May” other than just letting your grass grow long, which has no real benefits
  - Ideas include:
    1. Mowing higher all through the spring/summer seasons
    2. Mowing less frequently throughout the growing season
    3. Singing fewer pesticides/herbicides/fertilizers on lawns and gardens
    4. Letting flowers that naturally reside in laws to grow
    5. ETC...
- This year we would like to do a social media campaign to put out all of these ideas for people to use at their discretion
- We will plan to make a handful of infographics, and post a new one each day throughout an “Environmental week” at the end of April or beginning of May

## **Solar Company:**

- National Solar Technologies reach out to Holly (because we are an official CSC Bronze Community) to look into solar projects within the Village
- Holly informed us that Mayor Tallman is on board with doing solar projects in the Village
- Holly is going to reach out to Matt Bourke about discussing potential projects
  - One idea mentioned, was solar powered stand alone street lights in parks/new parking lot

## **Hamburg Trails Committee:**

- The Town/Trails group was awarded a 10K grant from GBNRTC to do a trails feasibility study at the Hampton Brook Woods WMA site

Next meeting date: Tuesday, January ?????, 2023 at Hamburg Village Hall

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke