

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2023
Hamburg Village Hall, 100 Main St., Hamburg, NY 14075

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

Excused: Andy Schrauth

Absent: n/a

Guests: Marissa Watkins

General Notes:

- Holly is submitting a nomination to the Erie County Environmental Excellence Awards, on behalf of the Village of Hamburg, Town of Aurora, and Village of Williamsville for attaining Bronze level of the NYS Climate Smart Communities certification. Nomination is due Feb. 13

Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

- CSC task force is mostly working on its own:
- An RFP for Solar companies was posted during the month of January (this is for companies to recruit residents and businesses to supplement their power to their buildings with solar)
- The Environmental Commission would like to have someone from the CSC task force do a very short update at the beginning of each of our monthly meetings

Bird Sanctuary

- We need to have the falling/leaning/fallen trees taken care of in the Bird Sanctuary. They are dangerous!
- Stu is going to talk to his Boy Scout connection in hopes that an Eagle Scout candidate might be interested in organizing a work day at the sanctuary (doing an invasive species removal day), doing some fundraising for a new kiosk, or potentially building some wildlife houses (blue bird, owl, bat) for the sanctuary.
 - Stu is going to invite the Eagle Scout Candidate and his dad to our March meeting
- Gerry brought up the idea of trimming the scrub brush on the north bank of the creek, so that when one stands on the Overlook Park patio one can clearly see the creek.
- The Village board will likely vote to turn the Bird Sanctuary from its current status as “residential Vacant Land” to “Municipal Parkland” at one of their next few meetings
 - Jason Cozza just wants to see if there are funding opportunities we could tap into by undergoing this process
- Kat has two quotes for a new kiosk at the Bird Sanctuary, one (from someone with a personal connection) that came it at \$1,700, the other was \$3,200, but this could be lowered with some volunteer contributions (which we would be willing to supply)
 - Adrienne brought up the idea of using recycled plastic boards to make the kiosk
- Kim has filled out the application to have the Bird Sanctuary added to the list of the NYDEC Birding Trail spots. It will be submitted, once the Village board approves of the submittal. Due date for the nomination is March 30th

ACTION:

1. Holly and/or Kim will talk to Marc about getting the trees in the Bird Sanctuary taken down
2. Adrienne will send the link to a video about the recycled plastic boards for the kiosk

Recycling/Compost

- Holly recently learned that much of the recycling that is picked up by the Village (especially glass) is not actually getting recycled (through no fault of the Village DPW itself). However, residents are still paying for this recycling service.
- Can our group do a field trip to the Recycling hub in Buffalo?
- Is there any way we can get around this? Are there other places who will recycle these things?
- Holly will be meeting with someone from the county to discuss recycling and compost
- Farmer Pirates has reached out to the Village to see if they can place a small compost pick up site on Village property for Village residents to use for a small fee. This idea spawned from the huge success the Town Compost Pilot has seen, and the very large wait list of folks who really want to partake in having their kitchen scraps composted.

ACTION:

1. Holly will discuss the Compost bin placement with her fellow Village trustees
2. Holly will speak with someone from the County about recycling/compost

Earth Day Movie

- We have reserved the Palace Theater for Saturday, April 27th.
 - Set up of tables for the event will start at 9:30, doors will open at 10:00, movie will start at 11:00
- Tables will include:
 - Our Commission
 - The Solar Campaign for the Village
 - Hamburg Trails Committee
 - Re-Tree Hamburg
 - Erie County Gnome
 - Village Engaged
- We need to get the exact amount needed for the Palace, and who the check should be made out to, so that Jason can get us the funds from our budget

ACTION:

1. Kat will figure out the cost, and who the check should be made out to, then Kim will get the check from Jason Cozza/Village

Other Commission outreach events

- Can our commission table at the Sesqui 5K event?
 - We will be looking into purchasing a banner or table cloth for outreach purposes (we want more people to know that the Village has an Environmental Commission!!!)
- For Now Mow May this year, we will be doing a social media blast, just to get the word out on how to best support native species of both plants and animals, and how to be gentler to our environment when it comes to lawn care

Tree Management Plan

- Update of the tree management plan is underway
- Kim met with DPW superintendent Marc Shuttleworth about the good and bad parts of the current plan as far as the DPW is concerned. The information he shared will be considered for the updated plan
- We would like to put together a simple flyer for folks who receive a Village tree, so that we can increase the odds of those trees surviving in their first few years after planting.

Next meeting date: **Tuesday, March 5, 2024** at Village Hall, 100 Main St. Hamburg, NY 14075

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke