

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, June 4, 2024
Hamburg Village Hall, 100 Main St., Hamburg, NY 14075

Present: Chair- Adrienne Punturiero, Village Liaison - Holly Park, Kim Bourke, Andy Schrauth, Gerry Stockmeyer, Kathryn Walsh, Stu Wheaton

Excused: Mike Reilly

Absent: n/a

Guests: Matt Bourke (Solar campaign)

General Notes:

- There was a very nice article in The Sun about the history of the Bird Sanctuary and some of the history of Anna Mae Bacon, as a result of the Sanctuary officially being designated as Village Parkland
- Mike Reilly's Care for Creation group will be hosting an event on plastics on June 13, more details to be released in the near future
- Stu's daughter would like to consider helping the Commission over the summer as part of her Capstone project for college

Solar/ Climate Smart Communities (CSC)

- The Solar group should be getting an update email from Brad Tito at Power Market soon to find out how many people have signed up for Solar
- Matt requested that we start posting the flyer and information about the campaign to Social Media
 - Can we make a short clip of the Mayor explaining the solar campaign to residents?
- Letter from the "Mayor's Desk" being sent out to residents this week
- The Solar group tabled at the Farmer's Market, but found that they didn't receive much interest
 - Plan is to table at Pride in the Park (?), Garden Walk, and BurgerFest
 - There was a discussion about purchasing a canopy for tabling at events, but that idea will be tabled for now.
- Matt should sit down with the Mayor, and Jason Cozza and go over the talking points of the program so that they are both on the same page when residents call in and ask about this program (which will definitely happen once the letter is sent out).
- Holly mentioned that there may be new funding opportunities through the Climate Smart Communities program, she will look into this for next month's meeting

ACTION: Holly will look into new CSC funding opportunities

Bird Sanctuary

- The Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary, was accepted as a new site on the NYS DEC Birding Trail, in response to a self-nomination application submitted by Kim
 - We will receive a 12"x12" metal sign to hang at the entrance of the park, and marketing materials to use for outreach events
- Eagle Scout, Sam Lafko, who joined us for our May meeting has decided that he would like to build us a new kiosk for the Bird Sanctuary, we will be in touch with him in terms of the dimensions and specific details we would like to have included in the new structure
- Kim is continuing to work on the Management Plan for the Bird Sanctuary
- The Environmental Commission will be purchasing two PullerBear tools (woody invasive species removal tools) to start to work on the Invasive Species problem in the Bird Sanctuary
 - Could we start a separate sub-committee of the group: The Invasive Species Task Force to help to eradicate these invasive plants from the Bird Sanctuary?
 - We could also continue to involve scouting groups in this effort

ACTIONS: Kim will order two of the PullerBear tools, and will continue to work on the Management Plan for the Bird Sanctuary

Sesquicentennial:

- The Bur Oak has been planted at Glen Meadows Park for the dedication at the Sesquicentennial Family Picnic on June 30, 2024 from 1:00 - 4:00
- The dedication plaque is being made, and should be ready for Stu to pick up within the next week or two
- Once plaque is received, Stu will take it to the DPW and ask them to acquire a rock to have the plaque adhered to, and placed near the tree at Glen Meadows

ACTIONS: Stu will contact the DPW after he has the plaque in hand

City Nature Challenge

- Kim introduce a new idea that she just learned about from an webinar she attended in June; it is called the City Nature Challenge
 - The idea of the event is to get large communities of people out and taking photos of living creatures in their neighborhoods (Citizen Science at the global scale). You use your smartphone, and download the app called iNaturalist and all the photos you take become part of a world-wide database monitoring natural populations in urban settings. The Challenge takes place during the last week of May every year, so we will have a whole year

to spread the word and get people ready for the challenge for May 2025!

- The group decided we wanted to partake in this challenge, and will work to onboard for next years event!

Meet the Creek Event (Hosted by the Hamburg Trails Committee)

- Event will take place on Saturday, June 8 2024 from 10:00 am - noon, depending on the nature of the creek (it will be rescheduled if the creek is too high)

Next meeting date: **Tuesday, July 2, 2024** at Village Hall, 100 Main St. Hamburg, NY 14075

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke