

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
Tuesday, August 5, 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, Mike Reilly

**Excused:** n/a

**Absent:** n/a

**Guests:** Matt Bourke(Solar campaign), Jason Kulaszewski and Josh McCain (UBRI), Marc Shuttleworth (DPW), Hannah Wheaton

**General Notes:**

- The Commission did not meet during the month of July, 2024
- The Sesquicentennial picnic went well, the Commission dedicated a Bur Oak in Glen Meadows park, and marked the event and tree with a plaque.
- A group of commission members and other community volunteers (11 in total) cleared brush and small trees from the north bank of Eighteen Mile Creek (below the Overlook) on the morning of Saturday, August 3rd. The last time this work was done was 2009. There is a lovely clear view of the creek from the Overlook again.
- Kat brought up the idea of instituting a Village-wide “Skip the Stuff” campaign. This encourages take-out restaurants and folks who utilize them to not take all the plastic utensils, straws, and other packaging if they don’t need it! Most of it doesn’t get used, and it ends up in the garbage.
- Hamburg MusicFest donated trees to the Re-Tree campaign, so that groups is getting the word out to make sure all of these trees are planted!
- Solar campaign is on track, the Village continues to add points to our Climate Smart/Clean Energy Goals and we are on our way to earning grant funding for the Village
- It was mentioned that we should start to track the groups individual/group volunteer hours, just as another data point in how hard our group works!!

**Hannah Wheaton Capstone Project**

- Hannah Wheaton (Stu Wheaton’s daughter) will be entering her senior year at Seton Hill University in the fall, and needs to complete a capstone project this upcoming year as part of her Honors program. She will be leading an Invasive Species education walk at the bird sanctuary.
- Walk will take place on August 17th 10:00am - 11:00am

- We are hoping to use her project as a jumping off point to start up an “Invasive Species Task Force” for the Village
- Our group will help with outreach and publicizing the event after she makes and delivers a flyer to us

**ACTION:** (For all of us) Help Hannah spread the word about her walk/project, and attend her event on the 17th

### **Eagle Scout Kiosk**

- Stu confirmed that the Eagle Scout, Sam Lafko, will be fundraising, building, and installing a new kiosk at the entrance to the Bird Sanctuary
- The kiosk will likely be place in the same general area as the kiosk there now

**ACTION:** Stu will keep the group updated about how his fundraising is going, so our group can support the project monetarily, if necessary.

### **DPW discussion**

- Marc Shuttleworth (Superintendent of Public Works) joined us for the beginning of our meeting
- Through the CEC/CSC programs we are being funded for an energy audit of a Village building. Marc suggested that the audit be completed at the Youth Center, the Commission agreed.
- Turnbull nursery would like to donate overstock of potted trees to the Village for a fall planting campaign, Marc was on board with having the trees donated and working to get them in the ground. If trees are still available, they would need to be picked up by August 23, 2024.
- There was a brief discussion of what the money that we should be receiving from our Clean Energy Communities/Climate Smart Communities designations should be spent on. Two ideas that were discussed included a Ford Lightening for the DPW, or a couple of Meangreen zero turn electric mowers for the Parks Department.
- We had a brief discussion on recycling in the Village and the pros/cons/costs of our program. The group would like to consider doing a public outreach campaign on more efficient recycling efforts by Village Residents (this could be as simple as updating and releasing to the public an updated “what can you recycle” flyer).
- We mentioned to Marc that we would like to have the DPW mow the meadow in the bird sanctuary annually, but we would work out the details of that before we actually put in a work order. Marc was open to the idea (the DPW used to mow the meadow annually).
- There is a resident who is paying (out of pocket) to care for an Ash Tree in Central Park (a.k.a. Triangle Park) to keep it free from Emerald Ash Borer, they asked if the Village would be interested in taking over the care of the tree. The Village is not, our group overwhelmingly thought that funds would be better spent if those trees were actually removed and other species of trees were planted in their stead.

#### ACTIONS:

1. Andy will contact Turnbull nursery about the trees and coordinate pickup if any of them are left to be donated
2. Kim/Gerry/Andy will look into figuring out the most effecting/efficient way to have the DPW mow the meadow on a regular (annual) schedule
3. Would someone (Kat and/or Holly??) like to re-do the Recycling flyer for the Village?

#### **Bird Sanctuary**

- Kim ordered the two PullerBear tools that will be used to remove Invasive woody species from the Sanctuary
- The Sanctuary was officially designated as a NYS Birding Trail site, Gerry installed the sign at the Crescent St. Entrance to the Sanctuary
- The Bird Sanctuary was an official stop on the Slow Roll put on during the Sesquicentennial events at the end of June 2024.
- Gerry and Kim found Water Hemlock (*Cicada maculata*) in the swampy area of the Bird Sanctuary, the group discussed what action should be taken to address the presence of this plant in a very public place, because of its extreme toxicity. We thought to place signs just off the trail where it is, but weren't sure if drawing attention to the plant would be a good idea. The group decided it would be best to speak with Village Officials to figure out the best way to proceed in dealing with these plants.
- We discussed the abundance of invasive English Ivy covering nearly the entire northern parcel of the Bird Sanctuary (adjacent to S. Buffalo St.). Yet another invasive plant to treat and monitor. The Vines are climbing the trees, and should be cut.
- Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility study proposals are due on August 9th, 2024. Kim expects to have a least a few proposals submitted to to choose from.

ACTIONS: Kim will speak with Ed Murphy, and other parties about what to do about the poisonous water hemlock in the Bird sanctuary.

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

- The Meet the Creek event on June 22, 2024 was well attended by families!

Next meeting date: **Tuesday, September 10, 2024** at Village Hall, 100 Main St. Hamburg, NY 14075

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke