

Conservation Commission Meeting Notes

December 13, 2016

Present: Kerry-Jane King, Haven Colgate, Jean Hamerman, Sharon Kivowitz, Andy Ratzkin, Dan Lemons (Trustee Liaison). Guests: Coco Zordan, Sabine Reichert. Notes taken by Haven Colgate.

Plastic Bags: Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC) is producing an evening on January 19 at Greenburgh Nature Center on the topic of plastic bag legislation for all communities, under their “Greening Our Towns” initiative. Two women from Tarrytown are interested in championing plastic bag reform there and approached members of the CC for advice. Discussed need for more public education in Hastings and for working with Foodtown to encourage people to use reusable bags.

Fabric recycling: Jean has had no response from SpinGreen and is examining other options.

Discussion of an e-waste drive, a free table swap, and promoting freecycle and freeshare websites.

LELE (Love 'Em and Leave 'Em): Sabine has volunteered to demo leaf mulching next fall, and to do some public outreach.

Transportation: Andy reported that the consortium of five communities from Hastings to Sleepy Hollow was awarded a 50K grant to analyze the Rte 9 (Broadway) corridor for traffic calming measures and connection to the new Tappan Zee Bridge bike lane. Three people per village are conferencing monthly (one town official and one NGO-type per village). Following the study, there will need to be money identified to implement the recommendations. The group is selecting a consultant for the project in January.

Vine Squad: in full swing.

Woods Rehab Committee: Educational forum. Aiming to engage Hastings Historical Society, Parks and Rec and Tree Board locally, and have been outreaching conservationists for help and advice. Sharon, Andy and Haven met with David Downs from Parks & Rec.

Green Building Code: NYS energy code is now more stringent than the energy requirements in our green code (and supersedes it). Christina Griffin and Buddy Minozzi are taking an intensive training on the new energy code in January and will meet with Sharon afterwards to advise how we might amend our code to preserve it as a “stretch code” – or whether we are satisfied with the new energy code.

Downtown Trash: Dan reported that Mike Gunther needs to follow-up on his investigation of Dobbs' downtown trash situation, to troubleshoot why Hastings gets so many residences

dumping residential trash in downtown street bins, and on the problem of contaminated recycling in those bins.

Green Team recommendations: We decided that it would be worthwhile to find out what comparable villages' green teams are doing in order to mine ideas for Hastings. Low-hanging fruit: get off junk mailing and unneeded catalog lists; get bills electronically instead of on paper.

NYSERDA Grant Opportunity: Two out of four items are approved by NYSERDA and third is nearly in. The fourth, streamlining our solar permitting, has a glitch: while our permitting process is fairly simple, it is online, while the streamlined permit is on paper. Therefore, to comply, we have to reprogram our online system. We will do a stopgap hybrid: add a paper checklist to our online permit application. Once we get this permitting process approved as "streamlined," which Dan indicated we would, we will take the \$2500 award that is offered for having a "streamlined solar permitting process" to pay for programming so that it will all be online. Then we will also have all four requirements in to apply for the NYSERDA grant. Next: we need to generate project ideas for the \$100K grant; should we win it, the projects will need to be shovel-ready.