

**Conservation Commission Notes**  
**May 9, 2023**  
**Municipal Building 2d Floor Conference Room**

**Present:** Haven Colgate, Chair; John Castiglione (via phone), Eyal Dror, Amy Listerman, Aarthi Muthukrishnan; Mary Lambert, Trustee Liaison. Also present: Cat McGrath, David Skolnik.

**Agenda**

Comp Plan/LWRP update  
Climate Action Planning & Climate Smart Communities update  
Hillside Composting project & ZWAT update  
Ecosystem Restoration Projects update  
Pollinator Pathway/Healthy Yards update  
Earth Month events wrap-up

**Comp Plan**

John: There will be a community open house on the plan on May 24th. Six months in, there's still not a lot of concrete items decided. The community survey had fantastic response: nearly a thousand people filled it out. David would like a process that incorporates more community input into the plan.

**CAP**

Mary: There will be a community presentation May 31; Mary gave a brief description of the plan overall.

**Hillside Composting project**

Aarthi: The pilot composting day on Earth Day at Hillside was a great success: 102 pounds of compost in one day, which wd be 18,360 pounds per school year. Goal now is to expand the pilot to more days through the PTSA; the school seems on board, especially the STEAM teacher.

**ZWAT update**

Aarthi: Book drop still being reviewed by Village lawyer. Elisa is stepping down as chair.

**Ecosystem Restorations**

Amy: Hillside Woods: Fencing in HW imminent; question of watchers to make sure it stays intact; dog walkers?

Exit 12: is there any money that was unused in the budget (as the line item budgeted for part-time arborist went unfilled) that can pay for additional fencing?

Haven: Hastings Pollinator Pathway: HPP garden tour June 3; had two successful 5 Corner maintenance sessions and a great turnout for the I Love My Park planting session May 6th. (A collaboration with NYS Parks, Old Croton Aqueduct, the Garden Club of Irvington and HPP.)

Leaf blowers: Irvington is hosting an event in September

Pick a day soon after May 15th and have the police do a sweep?

Village moving forward on legislating a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers for spring, hopefully by spring of 2024.

Cat: Kiosk @ Chemka Pool entrance: Cat got a notice of defect in some kiosks and Parks will need to examine ours to see if the recall applies.

Bird listening station - Birdnet: Aarthi has installed this citizen science birdcall monitor at her house.

### **Earth Month roundup**

Haven gave a brief recap. Bioblitz - 50% fewer participants than last year (missing Patrick!) but still a healthy turnout. Lots of great stuff was done (see [here](#) for more).

### **Coming up:**

Drive electric week in fall

Water week is in May - we did not make an effort for this.