

Conservation Commission Regular Meeting
Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Thursday, March 16, 2017 8pm

1. Hastings Woods Forum – update, outreach, day-of needs, etc.
2. Hudson: A River at Risk – update, outreach, day-of needs, etc.
3. Pace Land Use Center grant proposal
4. Climate March Resolution
5. Waste issues – letter to Board of Trustees
6. Transportation Working Group – liaison needed
7. Updates
 - a. Hastings Takes Action – Environment
 - b. Bus for Climate March
 - c. NYSERDA Grants (Clean Energy and Solar Permitting)
 - d. Route 9 Corridor
 - e. Vine Squad
 - f. Green Building Code
8. Announcements and New Business

Attendees: Sharon Kivowitz, Chair, Andrew Ratzkin (member), Jean Hamerman (member), Ron Cascone (member), Haven Colgate (member) Marty Markowitz, Polly Bijur

1. Hastings Woods Forum – update, outreach, day-of needs, etc.

The Conservation Commission is organizing a two part series, “State of the Woods: Our Local Ecology, and What We Can Do To Restore It.” The first panel will be on April 2nd at 3pm-5pm at the Community Center and the second on May 3rd from 7pm-9pm. Both will be preceded by a guided walk in the Hillside woods. The event is being co-sponsored by the Hastings-on-Hudson Conservation Commission, Hastings-on-Hudson Parks & Rec Commission, Hastings Historical Society, Hastings High School Environment Club, The Hillside Nature Guides Program, The Hastings Vine Squad, The Hudson River Audubon Society, and Dobbs Ferry Conservation Advisory Board.

The purpose of these forums is to inform residents about the state of the woods and to organize a constituency to lead/support in taking prescriptive action.

2. Hudson: A River at Risk – update, outreach, day-of needs, etc.

The Hastings Conservation Commission is hosting a screening of 4 short film segments of “The Hudson: A River at Risk.” Filmmaker Jon Bowermaster will lead a community conversation on the proposed and current uses of the Hudson as a fossil fuel conduit, including the barges, pipelines and "bomb trains" along with representatives from Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper and

Paul Harris. The film starts at 7pm and is free and open to the public at the James Harmon Community Center at 44 Main St. in Hastings. There will be a pre-event starting at 6:30pm to provide information on a range of subjects including composting, leaf mulching (love 'em and leave 'em), reusable bags, Vine Squad, local food sourcing, Hastings Take Action – Environment committees, etc. We will have sign up sheet to add people to our distribution list.

3. Pace Land Use Center grant proposal

Sharon was contacted by the Pace Land Use Center that there was funding available from the Westchester Community Foundation and that Pace was interested in applying to assist Hastings with a project. They have sent us a short proposal that would focus on three things: 1. Zoning analysis to promote a sustainable village. 2. Evaluation of NYS's building code and assistance to amend the Hastings Green Building Code. 3. Run a visioning session for the downtown development. We need to coordinate these options with the Village as they have begun to work on the re-zoning issue. Once we have that information we will respond to Pace. Other options for the proposal could include Complete Streets. As for the update of our Green Building Code, Ron attended a seminar on the International Energy Conservation Code (adopted by NYS) and will send the Commission a powerpoint summary so we can review it. The proposal is due in June. Sharon will reach out to Pace to see what other possible options we could consider.

4. **Climate March Resolution-** Andy has drafted a resolution. Dan and Sharon are reviewing and once final, Dan will present to the BOT.

5. **Waste issues** – CC writing letter to Board of Trustees- on hold

6. **Transportation Working Group** – Andy can no longer serve as the liaison. Sharon will ask Kerry-Jane, who has been the alternate, to become the primary liaison.

7. Updates

a. Hastings Takes Action – Environment

- Local: the group is actively engaging local residents. People interested in pursuing composting and visited Scarsdale to get information about their municipal organic waste drop off. They are also organizing an Eco Fair to present the host of ideas on how to tread more lightly on the environment.
- Political: the group is meeting to coordinate regional and national action. Handouts have been distributed with the name and contact information of organizations actively engaged in national resistance to cutbacks in EPA/curtailment in our climate change policies. They will promote the Climate March in DC.

b. **Bus for Climate March-** Andy will coordinate with Tara Herman to secure busses for local residents to go to the Climate March on April 29th.

c. **NYSERDA Grants** (Clean Energy and Solar Permitting). Hastings is pursuing a \$50,000 grant from NYSERDA. The project will focus on a community solar project using a suitable commercial building and using the power to benefit low-income residents.

d. **Sustainable Westchester.** There is some movement on the Solar Buyers Group. We will get an update shortly.

e. **Decommissioning of Indian Point/Community Choice Aggregation.** Hastings is considering an amicus brief- Article 78 since Hastings buys renewable power through Community Choice Aggregation we should not pay surcharge related to the decommissioning of Indian Point.

f. **Energy Advisory Group-** Dan interested in forming an Energy Advisory Group in Hastings.

g. **Route 9 Corridor-** The start of the conceptual/feasibility corridor is being delayed due to timing of state funding. The purpose of the study is to identify opportunities to enhance pedestrian, bicycle access and calm vehicular use along Rt. 9 from the Hastings/Yonkers line to the Sleep Hollow/Ossining line, while interconnecting with the planned bike/ped lane on the New New York bridge. In the meantime, the villages are collecting traffic, collision and planning data, and the Rt 9 Steering Committee is collecting similar data from the County, State, NYMTC and relevant NGOs.

h. **Vine Squad-** two more lops – check calendar. Productive lop season due to good weather (for the most part). Want to inspire vine squads in neighboring communities.

i. **Green Building Code** - on hold. (See Pace)

8. Announcements and New Business

- Lindsay is interested in tracing the trail that used to go down behind the Rec center which is now blocked by a fence erected by the Newington-Cropsey Foundation possibly in violation of an agreement with the Village. Andy will set up a walk so we can check out the state of the trail and investigate the agreement between the Village and Cropsey.