

Conservation Commission  
February 14, 2017

Commission Members Attending

Ron Cascone  
Jean Hammermann  
Kerry-Jane King  
Sharon Kivowitz  
Andrew Ratzkin  
Elisa Zazzera

Public:

Bill Crosby  
Andrew Welch

New Chairperson voted & installed.

In unanimous vote Sharon Kivowitz will be Chairperson of CC through April when Andrew Ratzkin will become Co-Chair with Sharon.

VINE SQUAD:

Bill Crosby reports. Bill shared a picture of Haven Colgate & himself from the February 11<sup>th</sup> lop. The picture shows each with chainsaws and the newly severed vines, some measuring approx 7" in diameter. Elisa will get electronic version of this photo from Bill and send it to Enterprise. Bill reports that Haven & Susan Harris have done an excellent job in recruiting vine loppers. There were 7 loppers on the last Vine Squad Lop.

GRANT FOR HILLSIDE WOODS SURVEY

Bill Crosby reports. Fiona Mathews (who was successful in getting Route 9 Grant of \$150K) is confident that she will meet the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Fiona has been given the Long Term Plan that HoH Parks & Rec wrote. Also given to Fiona is a copy of the large areal map of the village hanging at Community Center lobby as well as the Hillside Trail/Hiking map. Mary Kramarchyk - NYS DEC Division of Lands & Forests and George Profous are contacts for this grant.

HASTINGS WOODS PROJECT:

Andy Ratzkin reports. Haven, Sharon & Andy have been leading this project. Two Community forums are being planned. First in early April a "State of the Woods" presentation with local experts. This forum will educate on the current state as well as what a balanced healthy ecosystem would look like/has been in the Hillside Woods. Second, in early May: "What are possible Solutions to Issues in Woods" — local & regional experts will explore possible ways to mitigate further damage & heal current damage that's been done. This forum is not meant to result in a solution or plan of action - any solution will take years/decades to be effective; this forum will be to build a constituency that will carry this project forward for the years necessary for success. Parks & Rec are a co-sponsor. Would like to see other co-sponsors; have asked the Historical Society.

## TREES FOR TRIBS

Kerry-Jane King mentions that Ann van Buren has emailed her about this program – grants that give communities trees to plant to help with storm water. Andy knows folks involved with the grant; Kerry-Jane will connect Ann with Andy.

Kerry-Jane also asks if possible to have village commit to native plantings only in all future plantings & organic only – similar to Harrison. Jean Hammermann will investigate this.

## MEETING WITH FOODTOWN.

Jean Hammerman reports. Jean, Coco Zordan & Haven Colgate met with the brother owners regarding getting customers to bring their own bag. FT has recently been offering a reusable bag at \$3.99 or free with \$50. Discussed signage and a donation to charity for those that bring their own bag could participate in – ie. customer bringing a reusable bag would receive a wooden nickel or some such token that they would then drop in in one of several bins each labeled for a different charitable org.

NYSERDA GRANT. HoH did not get \$100k but are still in running for \$50K

## ROUTE 9 CORRIDOR:

Andy reports. Consortium of rivertowns has won a \$150K grant. After RFP process was followed Nelson/Nygaard has been awarded the contract to do study. Do not know when the money will be handed over. Until then the rivertowns consortium will gather relevant information & get it to Nelson/Nygaard.

Ron Cascone notes that best use of organic waste (kitchen & yard waste) is anaerobic digestion to produce gas, which can be used to create electricity or as direct burn for cooking etc. Ron will research efficacy for local use. Jean Hammermann notes that there is a Biogas Study Group at Sustainable Westchester.

## GREEN BUILDING CODE:

Sharon Kivowitz reports. Group has not met since NY State has issued its new code. The group will meet again in late spring, giving group time to learn/read the new NYS code

Ron Cascone mentions that a great example of permeable paving can be seen on driveway on Terrace drive.

## MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> SCREENING: The Hudson: a River at Risk.

Will show segments relevant to Oil transportation along River. Still working on who will be on panel. Andrew Welch will reach out to John Cronin (was on the panel at screening in Ossining).

## HASTINGS TAKES ACTION.

Elisa Zazzera reports. HTA is an adhoc group of Hastings residents interested in working on local issues. This group is not part of CC in any form. Some members of CC are also in HTA group. Elisa was at meeting on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> of those interested in waste. Most in the group are interested in increasing the amount of waste that is composted on site in Hastings. This is likely to be a campaign by neighbors/neighborhood to increase & improve backyard composting. A survey will be developed that folks can give to their

neighbors. Jean reports that some involved with HTA are interested in organizing an eco fair for end of year.

Announcements:

Kerry-Jane notes that Open House NY has tours and events throughout the year highlighting zero waste initiatives in NYC. This kicks off on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>.

Andy suggests that Hastings write something in support of a NYS bill advocating a carbon tax. Andy will email the bill/s to the commission for review & comment.

On May 6, there will be a shoreline cleanup at River Glen Cove sponsored by Riverkeeper.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a climate march in Washington D.C. Andy asks/suggests that CC or village can organize a bus from Hastings.

Notes taken by Elisa Zazzera