

# **Conservation Commission Regular Meeting - Monday, May 18, 2020 at 8pm - Via ZOOM Meeting**

**Conservation Commission Regular Meeting**

**VIA ZOOM**

**Monday, May 18, 2020, 8pm**

[conservationcommission@hastingsgov.org](mailto:conservationcommission@hastingsgov.org)

**The Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on Monday,  
May 18, 2020, at 8:00 P.M. via ZOOM**

- 1. Recap of Earth Month Activities**
- 2. Presentation about Pace Financing**
- 3. Green Building Code**
- 4. Food Waste**
- 5. Hillside Woods**
- 6. Climate Education and Engagement Plan**
- 7. Virtual Repair Cafe**
- 8. Updates**
  - a. pollinator pathways**
  - b. 0 waste subcommittee**
  - c. Route 9**
  - d. HeatSmart**

## **e. Virtual Repair Café**

### **Present:**

Spencer Weart

Sharon Kirowitz

Jean Hammerman

Patrick McKenzie

Haven Colgate

Kerry-Jane King

Sarah Smiley – EIC

Andrew Ratzkin

Sashi Nivarthi

Demetrius McLane

Sarah to speak about PACE financing

Direcot of Member Services – Energy Improvement Commission. Offers municipalities financing for clean energy without any of the risk. Alternate forms of capitals for commercial and non-profit. Upto 100% of the cost of the project. Can be repaid over a long term at a fixed rate. Can be used for upgrading energy sources. Transfers to the next owner when the property is sold. Allows property owners to reduce energy waste and emissions. Allows municipalities to offer financing without undertaking any risks associated with the financing. Allows EIC to bill the customer directly and there's no administration of the financing. Capital providers underwrite the loan

Needs to pass a local law and then authorize EIC to administer the program in HoH. Steps taken to facilitate success – launched a year ago. Financed 4 projects since November 2019. Encourage municipalities to advertise program on the website. Need planning board to tell them about these resources. PACE is only allowed for renewable energy sources for new construction. Initially it was allowed for residential properties. There has no program for residential properties developed as such. The current program allows for multi-family (5 units or more) units. Cannot be owned by an individual.

Recap of the Earth Month's activities – All the lectures were well attended. Spencer will do a min-Zoom for the department heads about climate change. Will help with the Climate Smart Communities mandates. 30 minute sessions were perfect. Hats off to everyone who organized the sessions.

Green building code – tomorrow night, NYSErDa will be talking to the BoT about the STRETCH code. Will have to cross-walk the STRETCH code into the Green Building code. Decided to add another new section to the development of 4 or more units. More stringent standards. Will also work with the Affordable Housing Committee to make sure that the standards don't impact their plans negatively. Expected timelines will be decided when the NYSErDa contractor updates the STRETCH code. He'll provide a comparison between the Green Building Code and the STRETCH code.

Food Waste – When NYC stopped collecting compost, we have a flurry of people requesting they use our composting facilities. How can we enforce for residents only? It costs the Village extra to cart the compost. Can we recommend them to go to Scarsdale? We have a capacity problem, since the totes are getting filled up. We don't have the list of the measurements of how much compost is carted every week. We'll ask Mike how many new totes (Sashi to do). Should ask Mary-Beth to see if Suburban is contractually obligated to let us know the weight

Hillside Woods – Patrick and Haven were in the woods to plant some DEC saplings. Essentially, we need to revive the Volunteer schedule and figure out a safe way of planting/maintaining the Woods. Tool distribution could be the big issue, would be nice if they can bring their own gloves. Aaron is off since he was working from home. Kiosk – they want the kiosk off their yard. Cat is working with DEC to figure out forklifts/storage etc. Could be installed in the next two – three weeks. Adam Hart has redid the map of Woods. Couple of trails dip into The Children's Village. Lawyers are talking about liabilities with the map. Boy Scouts are cleaning up the Woods. People are also making their own trails. Closing these trails would be a good start. Signage around the Woods would be good for enforcement and education.

Climate Education and Engagement Plan – Related to the Climate Smart Communities. Mary, Haven and Iris are preparing a strategy document. HeatSmart, Spencer's presentation are on there. Native versus invasive plants – brought up by Kerry-Jane King. Leaf blowers – Larchmont is proposing to their BoT about banning leaf blowers. 40% of the trees surveyed were maples. Most of the trees planted in HoH are non-native. Haven to share links of "Bring Nature Home" talks.

Virtual Repair Café. Lindsey informed that the virtual café on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Eletrical, mechanical, sewing. They will try to teach people how to fix things through video conferencing.

Updates on Pollinator Pathways – Augie, the person maintaining the OCA wants to revive the vegetable garden by the keeper's house in Dobbs Ferry.. Haven to provide a list of native plants people can plant in their gardens. Zero Waste – no updates. Andy – Route 9 is in a tough spot. No getting attention from people due to COVID-19. With the current scenario, more cyclists on the streets. Outreach to local villages to break the political deadlock. Focusing in walkable paths. State wants 12 foot lanes and 8 foot walking lanes. HeatSmart program is closed. Sprague Oil of Mt. Vernon, are repurposing their fleet to collect compost. They are collecting compost and create bio-gas that can be injected into the grid. A resident has expressed interest in reducing use of pesticides locally.