

# **Conservation Commission Regular Meeting - Tuesday, June 9,2020 at 8PM VIA ZOOM**

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**VIA ZOOM**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 8pm**

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

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

1. Green Building Code Update
2. Hillside Woods Update
3. Climate Smart Communities Update
4. Climate Education and Engagement Plan
5. Updates
  - a. Pollinator pathways
  - b. 0 waste subcommittee
  - c. Route 9
6. 6. New Business
7. 7. Announcements

**Present:**

Andrew Ratzkin

Sharon Kivowitz

Jean Hammerman

Haven Colgate

Mary Lambert

Kerry-Jane King

Spencer Wearts

Susan Meigs-Vunderink

Pinar O'Flaherty

Sashi Nivarthi

## Introductions

Green Building Code update – We had a great meeting and figuring out to incorporate the STRETCH code into the GBC. Identifying redundancies and ensuring that the code is complete. Made the changes as discussed by the Conservation Commission. Ian is working with Mary on the Climate Smart Communities and incorporating concrete in the GBC

Hillside Woods – Kiosk has been delivered Monday and will be installed next week. Delayed due to the pool opening. Adam Hart has created a map, made the trail a dotted line where it's on private property. Cat will be getting this printed and get it ready for the opening. Relevant information will be kept at the kiosk. The next steps for the restoration is to get a tree inventory. RFPs to be put out for tree-clearing and fencing. App-based database set up for volunteers to identify trees. There are lot of invasive spirits. Training will be done by Taro via Zoom. Will happen next week. Where's the money coming from for the activities? Most of the money will be for the durable map. Need someone to get the map printed. Also need volunteers for the dog signs and other sign boards. People might be putting their notices. How to handle that? Map could be on the back. Patrick wants to put a "What's happening in the Woods this week?" sign. Andy – who's running the capital project for this in the village? What's the status? There's a steering committee, with Parks and Rec Director, Anjali Chen, Haven Colgate, Sharon Kivowitz, Andy Ratzkin are members of the steering committee. The money for the tree survey is not yet in hand, and hence the app-based approach for the tree identification. We don't know when the money will be in hand. Is the money secured? NY State grant was obtained before this, and the other grant status is not clear. Is it feasible for volunteers to keep track of the funding situation, or should the Village staff monitor that? Haven to follow up with Anjali. May Lambert to talk with the Village Manager to get a plan in place. DEC tree purchasing spree by Haven's friends and they donated the trees to the Hillside Woods projects. Pinar has donated red oaks from her garden. Haven to let everyone when Taro will provide the training.

Climate Smart Communities – Vulnerability Assessment – Got people's opinions in the meeting. Turnout was not high. Another meeting being planned. The second meeting is not yet on the calendar. Mary would like us to help with the community input and publicize the upcoming meeting. 90 minutes talking about assets and prioritizing them. Identify threats and figure out how to tie assets to the threats. June 22/23/24<sup>th</sup> are the options being considered. Around 5:30 PM is the proposed time. CC to use mailing list. Engagement and Education plan – education of the public on climate. The authority would like to see the achievements. The September plan will be used as a starting point and to measure the achievements. Mary to send a link about the

achievements for review. July 3rd is the deadline for submission. Review has already started. The vulnerability assessment is worth 16 points. Village can send an email out on this.

Update on the Pollinator Pathway – Augie has been working on the OCA and is in the process of turning the defunct garden into a Pollinator Pathway. People donated and bought plants for the garden. It will be great. Pinar and Margie Lavender will be working together to build a strategy for propagating the pollinator pathway. Pinar had a question on how far apart the gardens for the pathway need to be? Put together a webpage containing information on how to set up a garden for pollinators. Educating people, getting advice from experts. We can do a community Zoom to have people participate. The Mayor is happy to publicize too. Next step is to get this on the calendar. Kerry-Jane will work with Haven to set up the date

Zero Waste – no update

Route 9 – no update. Still having difficulties getting the attention of the DoT. Working on getting public relations materials ready in the interim. Working with Sashi on the Complete Street Plans. Overlaps with the Route 9 plan.

Leaf Blowers – Andy – What is the current state of the villages taking a collaborative approach? Is there any consensus? Are leaf blowers are to be banned? The reason the villages cannot collaborative are that some villages have stricter standards and do not want to lower their standards. Larchmont presented to their BoT. It was a very effective presentation. They emailed us and are seeking support. Should this be done at an individual level, or at the Village/BoT level? Any form of support will be welcome. Do we have the authority to represent the Village? We could send a letter as a member of the HoH CC. WE need a clear plan to first go all-electric lawncare as a first step. Dobbs Ferry's standards could be a good first step to emulate. There are a few legal issues that need to be addressed. WE need widespread community support. It's much broader than what the Board realizes. We need to have a dedicated team from the CC to spearhead this. We can ask Louise and Jim Mulligan to chair a sub-committee. An email was sent to the Conservation Commission about leaf blowers being used in the school districts. We forwarded the email the Village Manager.

County Board of Legislators is adopt a resolution to adapt a state level carbon tax. It appears that his will go through.