

Conservation Commission Minutes– November 9, 2021

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees

Present: Haven Colgate, Chair; Margie Lavender; Sean Taggart; Matt Hobby; Mary Lambert, Trustee Liaison.

Also present: Amy Listerman, Sophia Ferris, Elisa Zazzera, Louise Mullan, Spencer Weart, David Skolnik, Tim Donahue. Notes taken by Matt Hobby.

8:00- 8:05pm Introduction (Haven Colgate)

- Welcome to new member Aarthi Muthukrishnan and proposed new member Amy Listerman
- Approved minutes from October 12

8:05- 8:15pm 2022 priorities and projects (Haven Colgate and Mary Lambert)

- Discussion of how priorities fit within Board of Trustee priorities
- Next step: CC members to review list of activities

8:15-8:20pm New Members (Haven Colgate)

- Introduction of new members and board needs
- Next steps:
 - CC members to consider potential new members

8:20-9:05pm Updates from committees

- Climate Action Plan and Climate Smart Communities Task Force (Mary Lambert)
- Clean Air Collective (new group) (Tim Donahue and Aarthi Muthukrishnan)
 - Engine idling (Idle Threat Library event with George Pakenham, Coordination with Town of Greenburgh)
 - Leaf blower initiative
- Zero Waste Advisory Taskforce (ZWAT) (Elisa Zazzera and Aarthi Muthukrishnan)
 - Website, Take It or Leave It Shed
- Leaf Blowers subcommittee (Mary Lambert)
 - Potential legislation to be proposed at future Board meeting
 - Larchmont, Irvington, Ossining bans on gas-powered leaf blowers
 - Responsible parties and penalties/fines
 - Education of homeowners
 - Ask your landscaper to do mulch mowing instead of leaf blowing
 - Why don't landscapers offer a no-leaf-blower option for more cost?
 - Allow electric leaf blowers during summer to encourage transition? Noise pollution issue.
 - Potential bulk purchase of electric leaf blowers
 - Contractor permitting issues

- Sophia Ferris, liaison to High School Environment Club
 - Used clothes sale at High School, with Pickup
 - PTSA used book fair, handing out native plant kits
 - Composting program at High School- May start with kitchen staff
 - Lids for recycling bins at High School
 - APES program at High School will work on Burke Estate (Haven C)
 - PE classes will once again work in Hillside Woods on the Restoration Project, and potentially Burke Estate, during their fall hiking unit (Haven C)
- Pollinator Pathway (Margie Lavender)
- Adopt-a-Spot (Margie Lavender)
 - Five Corners project
- Saw Mill River Watershed Advisory Board (SWAB) (Margie Lavender)
 - Birds and Bees Act- Neonics bans
 - Review ordinances on runoff
- Farragut Parkway Trees for Tribs (Matt Hobby)
 - Update on October 16th planting
- Hillside Woods (Haven C)
 - Demo enclosure plot
 - Job description for part-time position
 - Removing invasives, fencing, weeding
- Vine Squad (Haven C)
 - Strong inaugural Vine Lop showing on November 6
 - Potential for new leaders

9:05pm New Business and Announcements (none currently)

9:05pm Meeting ended

Next meeting: December 14, 2021