

Hastings-on-Hudson Conservation Commission

June 14, 2022

Municipal Building 2nd Floor Conference Room

Agenda

1. Approval of last month's notes
2. CSC/Climate Action Plan update - Mary
3. Zero Waste Advisory Taskforce update - Aarthi
4. Ecosystem restoration projects updates - Haven, Matt
5. Pollinator Pathway Project and subprojects updates - Margie
6. Leaf blower legislation update - Haven, Mary
7. Recovering America's Wildlife Act - Margie
8. New Business & Discussion
9. Announcements

Present: Haven Colgate, Chair; Aarthi Muthukrishnan; Margie Lavender; Mary Lambert, Trustee Liaison; and Matt Hobby and Eyal Dror via phone. Notes taken by Haven Colgate.

1. Last month's notes to be approved by email.

2. Climate Smart Communities

Lots of work has been done; now in phase 2 - constructing and refining the document. Subcommittees need to prioritize the information they've gathered based on greatest GHG reduction per action.

- a. *Transportation subcommittee* is developing a Google form in which comments will map to a digital map online, so that everyone can see other people's suggestions visually. Map so far: <https://bit.ly/3NRc7w9> (from feedback collected at Spring Thing). Google form: <https://forms.gle/6BXKdn9Y4voTFf367>
- b. *Adaptability subcommittee*: this kind of feedback format could be used to track and pattern where intensified flooding is happening in the Village. Margie's office uses Mapme: <https://mapme.com/>
The aim is to make the UX better for better communication.
Regarding erosion: can we draw out the worms?

3. Zero Waste Advisory Taskforce

- a. Gillian moving to Boulder.
- b. Discussion on takeout containers: can we find better alternatives?
- c. Caitlin circulated resources with the group. Trying to find a practical solution.
- d. Composting for restaurants: 2 successful pilots on trash audit with Hudson Compost Services: Sakura and Good Witch. Bread & Brine, Taiim, and 4 Seasons Deli have all signed up for a trash audit. Takeaway: Half of trash, in terms of weight, is compostable; but by volume, only 10%. Can the village charge

restaurants by weight..? As that would incentivize composting. Hudson Compost charges by weight. County charges the Village by weight.

- e. Discussion on biodigesters. Maybe even at Andrus? Cd be great pilot, with good publicity for the village's green identity; biodigesters generate electricity and obviate the need to travel food scraps long distances.
- f. TILI Garage is going great.

4. Ecosystem restoration projects

- a. *Exit 12*. Trees are doing well. We planted 50 additional trees/shrubs in May. Loving the rain. No need to water. Matt has taken down a lot of the weeds; lots left to do. Clearing more in the fall; will apply again to DEC Trees for Tribes for a fall planting. Will follow up with Groundwork Hudson Valley's Green Team and meet with Green Team director onsite to discuss.
- b. *Burke Estate*. Don Erwin has ramped up efforts here and the project is going great. We've had scores of HS kids and local neighbors helping, and an amazing 4th grade Girl Scout troop has become involved, and they are hardworking and enthusiastic! DEC donated 100 tree tubes and stakes, and they are all doing well.
- c. *Hillside Woods*. We had 3 fantastic HHS interns this spring, who surveyed all of last year's planting and repurposed tree tubes over volunteer seedlings for any that didn't survive. They logged all the data in Epicollect. They also removed barberry - we've now removed approximately half of the surveyed number of shrubs, and mile-a-minute vine, and planted 16 of the trees/shrubs at Exit 12.

5. Pollinator Pathways

- a. Planted 200+ plants in 5C and weeded. Mugwort getting under control; next year it will be glorious. We'll schedule another weeding in a month. Margie will work on signage.
- b. June National Pollinator's month: window at Galapagos plus 25 other stores & the library participating.
- c. HPP relaunched seed exchange at the library, with an event last weekend.
- d. Planning a letter to Enterprise campaign over the next year.
- e. Need a champion in the school - we have the 2 HHS kids on the mayor's task force. Maybe MS kids will get to it - there are some enthusiastic ones... maybe get HS girls to mentor them? Would be great to do a project right at the school - e.g. remove the privet hedge and get kids to plant alternative native shrubs. Goal for PP is to reach out to institutions... haven't really done it yet.
- f. Adopted sites work best when someone owns it; HPP should host an info meeting on adopt-a-spot, plus How-to videos.

6. Leafblower Law

Commission approves making a recommendation to the BOT to ban gas-powered leaf blowers in the Village year-round. Additional suggestions: make homeowners responsible for fines; allow citizens to lodge complaints with police to result in a warning letter. Question: where did funds for Yonkers subsidies come from? Maybe Mayor Spano can discuss with Niki?

7. Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Per Margie, this is Incredible legislation: takes the money that is paid in fines for environmental infractions to protect endangered species. Congress asked all states to list emergency endangered species - states identified 12k species. So the act goes to specific targets. States enumerated anticipated costs - \$1.3B - and \$97M to tribal nations - and these wd be covered by the fines. Has many benefits, which Margie listed. Margie recommended Conservation Commission sign on; commission agreed. Commission can also write a letter to Jamaal and Mondaire.

8. New Business.

Neither Mary nor Haven managed to get to the MacEachron erosion meeting and will watch the proceedings online.