

Conservation Commission Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2022

Present: Haven Colgate, Chair; John Castiglione; Eyal Dror; Matt Hobby; Margie Lavender; Amy Listerman; Mary Lambert, Trustee Liaison. **Notes taken by:** Haven Colgate.

Agenda:

Yards

Ecosystem projects

Zero waste

Climate Smart Communities

Money

Public engagement

Yards & leaves

Mary will talk to the folks in Bedford who conducted the GPLB buy-back program about:

How it was funded

What businesses they engaged for their coupon

What are they doing with the old GP equipment participants turned in

If we do a bulk purchase, we could include push brooms and rakes in the purchase options (along with electric blowers). We could do commercial electric blower and residential electric blower options. Amy found a plug-in model helpful - no batteries. Could commercial landscapers plug-in to clients' homes?

We discussed education/awareness about GPLBs and yard signs seem a good way to do that. Aarthi/Sashi gave away "this yard is GPLB free" signs at the Sugar Pond concert; Aarthi, could the signs be added to the cleanaircollective.net website, so ppl can know where to get one? We cd add info about them on the HPP website as well - and plug in our next newsletter.

Hillside Woods

RFP went out and had only 1 bidder. We believe this is bc few companies specialize in both fencing installations and ecosystem/plants restoration, so we'll likely divide the project into two RFPs. Amy will google Amish fencing companies in Pennsylvania per Melissa Reavis' suggestion, and call a couple to see if the project we have in mind is something they can do.

Farragut Parkway

Great successful fall planting; Matt is putting in a lot of effort maintaining the site.

We will be doing a community maintenance session Saturday, October 29th, noon-4pm (come for any part) and all are invited. Rain Date: Sunday, October 30th.

Matt will liaise with Mary Beth to help direct Ryan & Ryan's work at the site.

Zero Waste

ZWAT met with Village Mgr Murphy and Mayor Armacost to discuss the deplorable state of the DPW yard. Mike Gunther has purchased additional totes for the food scraps area and is supposed to be rinsing the bins once a week. ZWAT delivered suggestions, as follows; note this was not all discussed at the meeting; I am pasting from a recap email:

1. **Signage Needed:** Rules should be posted to reduce the amount of dumping and confusion. This includes:
 - New signs indicating what is acceptable to put into each bin (paper/commingled)
 - 'No Dumping' Signs
 - Signs of where to bring your unwanted items (TILI, HMRF, 1st Saturday of the month for disposal at DPW yard, etc)
 - Signs warning about surveillance cameras monitoring the yard, and the subsequent fine for illegal dumping
 - Proper labeling of bins and "stations" at the yard for patrons to know where to drop off items
2. Village to arrange for the **removal of the current textile recycling bins** at the yard and replacement of those with two new providers:
 - [Greentree](#) offers sustainable textile recycling and the village should now have a signed contract with them to bring a new bin to the DPW yard, when we're ready.
 - [Helpsy](#) is another textile recycler we could engage with, if needed.
 - [Discover books](#) is a book reseller and recycler and we are close to having an agreement signed to have a book bin in Hastings. ZWAT recommends this bin, too, should be placed in the DPW yard. While other unrelated waste may end up in the bin (which they are used to), this will help consolidate the management of unused goods into one location, and will offer solutions to avoid more items being dumped or left on the ground in the yard.
3. Proper cleaning and care for the **composting station**: we understand that additional bins have been ordered in order to have a more frequent cleanup and washing of full bins, which is great! ZWAT recommends the entire station be scrubbed down weekly, ensuring a somewhat sanitary and orderly conditions are maintained.
4. **Recycling programs with village restaurants** (can the DPW team help somehow?)
5. **Reestablishing protocols** for DPW yard maintenance:
 - Dumping fines enforcement
 - Video monitoring and reporting to the village manager
 - Daily monitoring of food scrap station monitoring and management
 - Designated bins for e-waste and scrap metal recycling for residents to bring down, in addition to truck pickup by sanitation staff.
 - Proper signage directing people to what is allowed/not allowed, where and when.
6. **TILI garage mention in the village calendar**: we understand the turnaround is short for adding the TILI info onto next year's calendar (10/30/22) and can provide you with

our postcard file, as well as any additional needed. Please advise who should be sent this information

7. **Online information on village website:** it would be great to make updates to the village website to better inform residents of sustainable options available to them, as well as recommended best practices. This may require a collaboration between a ZWAT member and the village web designer/marketing person.

Climate Smart Communities

We have a Climate Action Plan draft; the committee meets 10/19.

Deer study has officially ended but information is not yet forthcoming. There are no good options, as the chemicals legal for research use are not yet legal for commercial application.

Money

No conclusions were drawn on how to spend the \$750 profit from the Sugar Pond concert.

Codes

John and Eyal will analyze village codes to improve or institute (e.g., tree, bamboo) them, plus how to best enforce them. In the absence of the village hiring a code enforcement officer, it could be a matter of ensuring individual staff in appropriate departments take a more proactive role; Mary noted that no citations have been issued for idling or leaf blowers despite codes for these being widely disrespected. John suggested a single portal on the village website for residents to report potential violations, which would filter incoming complaints and send them to the person responsible. This would make it easier for residents to get action on quality-of-life issues.

Parks & Rec Update

Zinsser Community Gardens needs more proactive oversight by the Parks Dept, but Parks is short-staffed. There are dilapidated, unused plots and a long waiting list. Active gardeners with plots are interested in making an oversight committee.

Skate Park advocates need to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to realize their dream, but the school has already started removing trees in the Burke where the park is slated to go.

Mary will reach out to the school to find out details (correct me if I got this wrong).

An Eagle Scout candidate is interested in building and donating benches to a public park, potentially around Sugar Pond.

Communication Among Committees

We discussed the need for more cohesion among the volunteers on the various boards and commissions in the village, plus opportunities for residents to learn about what these entities do and how to become involved.