

Conservation Commission Meeting January 10, 2017

Agenda

- Grant Opportunities
 - NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Grant Opportunity
- Land Care
 - Hillside Woods – Spring Forum
 - DEC Urban Forestry Grant Opportunity - Climate Smart Communities
 - Leaf Mulching Outreach/Education - *Love 'Em and Leave 'Em*
 - Vine Squad
- Transportation
 - Route 9 Corridor Project Update
- Green Building Code
 - Revisions Update
- Waste
 - Downtown Trash Collection – Village update
 - Recycling Flyer Review
 - Reusable Bag Outreach/Education
- CCNY MPA Program Project Opportunity
- 2017 Goals and Work Plan
- Announcements

Present: Kerry-Jane King, chair, Haven Colgate, Jean Hamerman, Sharon Kivowitz, Dan Lemons (trustee liaison), Andy Ratzkin. Guests: Bill Crosby, Lucy Corrigan, Brendan Flynn, Andrew Welch, Faith Wershba.

Dan and Bill Crosby announced a NYS Urban Forestry Council grant opportunity. March 1 deadline for grant application for \$50,000 with no matching requirement for either of first two application options: 1) tree inventory; 2) community forest management plan; 3) tree planting; 4) tree maintenance. Short time frame; need to tailor to Albany's priorities. Bill Crosby spoke with regional forester and said Albany handles everything and there is no more regional help or review. Inventory baseline is step one, which would afford a community management plan subsequently and fold in well into our work planned for the spring. The professionals Andy has consulted in the context of the planned woods forum have also underscored the necessity of getting a baseline first, and an employee of the forest service has said he is willing to do training with volunteers. Engaging volunteers would also be important for the woods rehab project, which will take decades. This inventory would not duplicate the volunteer effort led a few years ago by Brett Schneiderman and Jenny Lee as that inventory was uniquely street trees, and this inventory would be woods. There was a consensus in favor of submitting the grant to do a full tree inventory. It is hoped that the result will be as broad as possible so that along with a full inventory of trees, there is as much information as possible gathered about other features of importance, such as the ground litter food web. It was also hoped that the project could be carried out in a way that gained a high level of participation by resident volunteers.

Hillside Woods - Spring Forum

Making progress on two sessions. Panelists want to do in-person nature walks before the panel discussions. There are a lot of foresters around who are excited to help communities. Hastings is a good test case: a regional issue with a willing community. Replicability. Will invite area communities. Dates: weekends of March 18th, 26th and April 2nd. Haven is doing publicity, Sharon venue and Andy panelists.

LELE - tabled to next meeting.

Vine Squad - season in full swing.

Recruit help for waste initiatives? (Lucy Corrigan expressed an interest in working on educating on recycling.)

CEC \$100,000 energy-related sustainability grant: 3 of 4 actions approved. In 10 days online solar streamlined permitting will be launched and in service. Resolution to adopt NYS streamlined permitting will be presented at next board meeting. Dan will submit 4th action to CEC immediately. Need to prepare a proposal for the grant and preparation will begin in the next week or two.

Dan has 3 or 4 CUNY masters students who may be interested in evaluating and addressing communication and education for village projects/cc for a small village that is volunteer-powered. There was a consensus in favor of presenting to the students a project centered on an initiative of the Conservation Commission. Dan will do that at CUNY on Jan. 31. He would serve as the liaison from the village to the students. Any further ideas about the project should be shared with Dan by Jan. 28.

Route 9 Corridor:

5 responses to RFP; transportation group reviewing. Award announcement early February; will have a year to complete project. (Investigating to what extent you can carve out a bike/ped lane the length of it from Yonkers to the new Tappan Zee Bridge).

Haven will followup with Elisa on missing meeting notes.