

Conservation Commission Meeting Notes January 10, 2023

via Zoom

Present: John Castiglione, Haven Colgate (Chair), Eyal Dror, Matt Hobby, Amy Listerman, Mary Lambert (Trustee Liaison), Aarthi Muthukrishnan. Also present: David Skolnik, Spencer Weart. Notes by Haven Colgate.

Agenda

- 2023 Event planning
- Possible public education series
- CC neighborhood liaisons program
- Updates on ongoing projects & comp plan
- CC annual report

Events & Education

Discussion of planning for Spring Thing street fair green zone and a series of talks on sustainability topics. We may do one each month for several months. We could do one a week during Earth Month, as we have in the past. Haven will draw up a list of topics and share with the team for ideas/discussion and invited anyone interested to meet with her.

Neighborhood Liaisons

Haven will start to package a neighborhood liaisons program. Aarthi volunteered to collaborate on this.

Codes & Enforcement

A discussion about administrative mechanics in the village, purview, and how to address the issue in a comprehensive way. The team will review the doc John created in the next two weeks with an eye to adding any sustainability-related codes that seem to be missing, and consider types of enforcement mechanisms. Gap analysis: discover which codes have no assigned enforcement mechanism. We will also look to comparable villages for ideas on both parts. After review, we will determine how to bring the issue to the Village.

Landscapers/Leaf blowers

A discussion on how best to shift practices. One of the public education sessions can be on lawn care in concert with the Pollinator Pathway project. Question of whether the CC should insert itself as a representative body to landscapers or engage individual residents to talk to their landscapers.

Zero Waste

Aarthi is eager to see composting embraced in schools, inspired in part by a NYT article on food waste ("How Central Ohio Got People to Eat Their Leftovers"). Need to identify a champion employee inside the school system. ZWAT has had some successes such as getting DPW to

spray paint “paper only” on the paper dumpsters. Eyal wd like to get more involved in ZWAT work.

Climate Smart Communities

We reviewed Mary’s chart of CSC items and will work on some of the items listed. Spencer said he was willing to work on a solarize campaign (will require a committee). The green vendor fair point will be satisfied at Spring Thing if we get some vendors to attend. Some of the waste points can be achieved by ZWAT.

Comp Plan

John has been attending CP meetings. The previous Comp Plan’s 3 pillars were: economic development, sustainability, and preserving community character. The gist this time around is to make denser dwellings such as apartment complexes near transportation centers to create more affordable housing and expand diversity. Flooding is a major pillar now, including waterfront issues. Unclear how denser development will maintain community character, especially if it makes living in Hastings more expensive bc of the school tax increases that will be required if additional families move into the Village. Possible to make “senior only” apartments. All are encouraged to attend the next public meeting, date TBA.

Annual Report

We’re required to produce one every year. Haven will spearhead this and share a draft with everyone.