

Conservation Commission Notes
June 13, 2023
Municipal Building 2d Floor Conference Room

Present: Amy Listerman, Mary Lambert, Eyal Dror. Also present: Gal Yaguri-Tadmor, David Skolnik.

We had a small but mighty group at the CC meeting tonight. Special thanks to Gal who came as the ZWAT rep and our 1 regular citizen attendee.

CSC Update and related (Mary)

CSC had a public forum at the end of May; comments will be incorporated into the document.

Safe Routes to School - Mary reported that the committee is ramping back up. A lot of work has been done to date, and the program has lots of material. SRtS is a sub-committee of the CC, started in 2018. It's a national organization, so there is an established framework and many ideas to consider for Hastings. The group languished during Covid and is looking for new members. We discussed possibly having a table at Hillside Back-to-School Night to raise SRtS awareness, plus present info on the fledgling Hillside composting program, etc.

Mary mentioned the village is using green concrete for sidewalks, paving and other public works projects. The Village will use greener asphalt for upcoming street paving.

Hillside Woods update (Amy)

Fencing work has started near Children's Village. It's expected that up to 700 linear feet will be installed within the next two weeks.

The terrain is proving very challenging. We are hoping to finish fencing by the end of summer, but a good deal depends on terrain and staffing.

As of last week, the Village was checking references for Bartlett Tree Care, which submitted a bid for the Invasives / Forest management part of the project. Amy noted that Bartlett suggested their projects work best when they have a liaison from the city/town managing/prioritizing the work.

Amy and Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (chair of Parks & Rec Commission) will follow up to draft a joint letter from Parks & Rec and Conservation commissions to stress this as yet another example of where we need to invest in an urban forester position.

ZWAT update (Eyal and Gal)

Compositing at hillside woods - energy focused on fall initiatives

Irvington hired a part-time sustainability person, Charlotte Binns, who is doing a lot of interesting things in Irvington and seems to have interest in Rivertowns-wide initiatives.

****could we have her as a guest visitor to a future CC meeting ?**

Gal notes that ZWAT has also been working on infra-village discussions around ZWAT topics (TILI, food pantries, etc). Gal also notes that Elisa will be stepping down as head of ZWAT (but staying in committee), and that they are working on a job/roles description to figure out how they move forward.

High School Liaisons

We should reach out to the liaisons for next year and figure out how to continue to best engage with them for the year. Hastings High School's environmental club contacts are: Aynsley Zamore and/or Mia Christie. The teacher correspondent for the club is Melissa Shandroff.

We didn't have much of an update on ecosystems projects... but we would love to get the lowdown on the Exit 12 plantings, and if there is a path to protect shrubs and remove the tubes at same time.

Quick updates on No Mow May, leaf blowers, other topics.