

Conservation Commission Notes
October 10, 2023
Municipal Building 2d Floor Conference Room

Present: Haven Colgate, Chair; Eyal Dror, Matt Hobby (by phone), Amy Listerman, Aarthi Muthukrishnan; Mary Lambert, Trustee Liaison. Also present: Aarthi's daughter/future member !

Leaf Blower Ban

- October 17 board meeting 7pm, public comment; there won't be a vote this week
- Current proposal: allows electric leaf blowers in summer, gas leaf blowers during core fall weeks (October 15-December), but no limit on number that can be used at a time, though since the original, there are hours of day established; would be put into effect next year (2024).

Electric Owl

- Hired Sav-A-Tree to do tree inventory of property ... difficult to match tree inventory with map of trees to be cut down in the building process. Would be good to get more information. Plan cuts down at least 200 trees, 400+ trees to be planted.
- What is accountability process? Ideas (1) hire 3rd party to oversee processes (trees, environmental building promises, etc) at Electric Owl's expense, (2) are there penalties for non-compliance?

USDA Urban Forestry Grant

- Senator Schumer's office has advised that the Village of Hastings (together with Dobbs Ferry and Irvington) has won a USDA Urban Forestry Grant. The grant is \$433k over 5 years to be shared among the three Villages and each will need to provide an equivalent match. The formula in the grant results in \$42k Dobbs, \$137k Irvington, and \$254k Hastings. So for Hastings, that is about \$50k in match dollars per year. The Village Manager will find out if the match has to be in cash or if in-kind is allowed. These funds will allow us to hire a part-time arborist (split amongst the 3 Villages).
- Reference: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding>

Electric Vehicles Event

- Rescheduled for this Saturday 9-11am at the Farmers' Market. Litter League Box will be there, HPP will table (mulching, etc), Vine Squad, Repair Café (especially to advertise the next RC: Nov 17 in Hastings).

Matt Update Exit 12

- Green team (Yonkers teen event) — did some work at Exit 12.

Hillside Woods

- Amy to check who is speaking with Dobbs Ferry about the deer drive.

Saturday the 21st of October

- Sponsored by FCWC and at the Greenburgh Nature Center: a gathering of Conservation Commission-equivalents from area towns
- Haven forwarded email to committee

School Board has proposed installing an artificial turf field at the Burke Estate.