

Conservation Commission Meeting Notes

November 14, 2023, via Zoom

Present: Haven Colgate, Chair; Aarthi Muthukrishnan; Mary Lambert, Trustee Liaison; Amy Listerman; Matt Hobby.

Notes taken by: Aarthi Muthukrishnan

Agenda:

- i. Call to Order
- ii. October notes approved
- iii. Public Comment (no public in attendance)
- iv. Agenda Items Discussion
 - New CC member discussion
 - Discussed potential candidates and sending out email to Village
 - Exposome summit
 - Institute of Exposomal Research at Mt. Sinai
 - Discussed producing a presentation to the community by a researcher from Mt. Sinai to better understand the overall impact of exposure to different pollutants; Haven to reach out to Chloe Teasdale
 - Discussion on new, more sustainable alternatives to artificial turf for school fields
 - Bamboo Code - added
 - Discussed asking the Board to create a code for bamboo and potentially expanding the code to cover other invasives, and incentivize planting ecosystem-appropriate ones
 - Updates on ongoing projects
 - Climate Smart Communities
 - Solarize campaign in 2015 netted 53 projects installed
 - Plans to launch another campaign in 2024
 - Leaf blower law
 - Law has been updated to reflect only 1 leaf blower allowed per property below ½ acre year around (including during Fall) and gas-powered machines restricted to fall only
 - Public comment currently open
 - Ecosystem restoration projects
 - Tree issues & tree inventory: topic/update
 - Hillside Woods

- Discussed Hillside fencing and deer drive. Ideal time for the deer drive is December/January
 - A research team has planted hundreds of oaks outside the enclosure with temporary fencing
 - Discussed potential dog park location in southern Hastings
 - Hillside composting - school is contracted with CRP to pick up food scraps; also from the kitchen in the MS/HS. Hillside: 3 Fridays in December, members of ZWAT will help train the kids, and hopefully in 2024 it will be every day.
 - Met with Mike Gunther: discussed food scrap area & doing a pumpkin smash in 2024
 - Vine lops have started. Good turnout in the last lop.
- v. Announcements (next meeting date)
 - HV Flood Resilience Network meeting: 10 am - 2 pm; Thursday, November 16, 2023; Center for the Urban River at Beczak
 - Greenburgh Nature Center seeking Board members
 - The Village will plant 12 trees with 50-50 NYPA match end of November
 - Next meeting: Dec. 12
- vi. Adjournment