

Conservation Commission Monthly Meeting

3/20/29 via Zoom

- **Present:** Haven Colgate, Chair; Aarthi Muthukrishnan; Amy Listerman; Eyal Dror; Matt Hobby.
Also present: David Skolnik, Hazel Kuniholm.
- Notes taken by Amy.
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- Leaf Blowers
 - o Gas-powered leaf blower ban is currently in effect (GPLBs now allowed only from Oct 15-Dec 31).
 - o We have informational door hangers ready to go; we will need volunteers to distribute
 - o Landscaper meeting in January: 6 attended. They weren't all aware of new law, and they don't seem thrilled about it, but it was a good discussion
- Deer Drive
 - o Lots of community support - Haven did 2 informational zooms
 - o People have been sending us emails with fence issues, so the spotter program is working
 - o Aim to work with schools to be able to evaluate impact of exclosure on woods over time
 - o Drone guy will do another fly over, once that is complete P&R contractor will permanently close the temporary leg of fencing
- Spring Thing – April 28 / Rain date May 5
 - o Town will help produce materials
 - o Amy will help Haven in organization
- April 14 – Clean Energy Expo in Irvington – we will promote
- Pollinator Pathways – Dark Skies Event / trial event next week. May do larger event later for public
- Annual report for April Board Meeting – Haven looking for input
- Earth Month – Haven looking for feedback on agenda
- Open Topics
 - o Aarthi update: Hillside composting
 - Composting Fridays every week, 2 ZWAT volunteers every session to make sure kids compost properly /almost everything is compostable (plates, utensils, etc.). School is looking into budget to pay someone to monitor. We also would need to identify the right person to do it. Is there a way to do something like the crossing guards that the town would finance?? Is this something we could find volunteers to do like pizza Friday?
 - After a year, could we get to where the kids could do it themselves? Need to get to 5 days a week and self-directed. More to come.

- Matt – Farragut update. To protect new plantings at Farragut primarily from landscapers, the current plan in early April is to put up rustic split-rail fencing with volunteers. Village is providing fencing material.
 - Haven asked if we should schedule a clean-up in April of the area. Matt said May or June might be a better time to schedule one.
- Electric Owl
 - Margie nominated as most likely to succeed in understanding architectural and ecological concerns before the planning board, and to update CC
- Hazel – high school student joined the meeting
 - Raised topic of meat consumption impact on climate change and whether that is a topic that CC will be taking up
 - Haven: we have not as a group taken up this topic. Something we could consider. Encourage the idea of plant-based eating. Brainstorming as to how to support Hazel in her interest in promoting plant-based diets: could go about with an eat green day or week, a booth at Spring Thing, promotion through local restaurants.
- We had 2 zoom bombers, extremely vulgar, who we removed from meeting
- David Skolnik
 - Suggested re Electric Owl
 - Asked about route 9, Haven wasn't able to attend last meeting. David attended the meeting in Tarrytown.
- Inter-village meeting update. Haven zoomed in. Meeting in Tarrytown went well: great collaboration across Rivertowns. Next one possibly in May?