Conservation Commission Minutes– November 9, 2021

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees

Present: Haven Colgate, Chair; Margie Lavender; Sean Taggart; Matt Hobby; Mary Lambert, Trustee Liaison.

Also present: Amy Listerman, Sophia Ferris, Elisa Zazzera, Louise Mullan, Spencer Weart, David Skolnik, Tim Donahue. Notes taken by Matt Hobby.

8:00- 8:05pm  Introduction (Haven Colgate)

- Welcome to new member Aarthi Muthukrishnan and proposed new member Amy Listerman
- Approved minutes from October 12

8:05- 8:15pm  2022 priorities and projects (Haven Colgate and Mary Lambert)

- Discussion of how priorities fit within Board of Trustee priorities
- Next step: CC members to review list of activities

8:15-8:20pm  New Members  (Haven Colgate)

- Introduction of new members and board needs
- Next steps:
  - CC members to consider potential new members

8:20-9:05pm  Updates from committees

- Climate Action Plan and Climate Smart Communities Task Force (Mary Lambert)
- Clean Air Collective (new group) (Tim Donahue and Aarthi Muthukrishnan)
  - Engine idling (Idle Threat Library event with George Pakenham, Coordination with Town of Greenburgh)
  - Leaf blower initiative
- Zero Waste Advisory Taskforce (ZWAT) (Elisa Zazzera and Aarthi Muthukrishnan)
  - Website, Take It or Leave It Shed
- Leaf Blowers subcommittee (Mary Lambert)
  - Potential legislation to be proposed at future Board meeting
  - Larchmont, Irvington, Ossining bans on gas-powered leaf blowers
  - Responsible parties and penalties/fines
  - Education of homeowners
    - Ask your landscaper to do mulch mowing instead of leaf blowing
    - Why don’t landscapers offer a no-leaf-blower option for more cost?
  - Allow electric leaf blowers during summer to encourage transition? Noise pollution issue.
  - Potential bulk purchase of electric leaf blowers
  - Contractor permitting issues
• Sophia Ferris, liaison to High School Environment Club
  o Used clothes sale at High School, with Pickup
  o PTSA used book fair, handing out native plant kits
  o Composting program at High School- May start with kitchen staff
  o Lids for recycling bins at High School
  o APES program at High School will work on Burke Estate (Haven C)
  o PE classes will once again work in Hillside Woods on the Restoration Project, and potentially Burke Estate, during their fall hiking unit (Haven C)

• Pollinator Pathway (Margie Lavender)

• Adopt-a-Spot (Margie Lavender)
  o Five Corners project

• Saw Mill River Watershed Advisory Board (SWAB) (Margie Lavender)
  o Birds and Bees Act- Neonics bans
  o Review ordinances on runoff

• Farragut Parkway Trees for Tribs (Matt Hobby)
  o Update on October 16th planting

• Hillside Woods (Haven C)
  o Demo exclosure plot
  o Job description for part-time position
  o Removing invasives, fencing, weeding

• Vine Squad (Haven C)
  o Strong inaugural Vine Lop showing on November 6
  o Potential for new leaders

9:05pm New Business and Announcements (none currently)

9:05pm Meeting ended

Next meeting: December 14, 2021