Conservation Commission Minutes—December 14, 2021

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees

Present: Haven Colgate, Chair; Matt Hobby; Margie Lavender; Amy Listerman; Aarthi Muthukrishnan; Christopher Persheff; Sean Taggart; Mary Lambert, Trustee Liaison.

Also present: David Skolnik, Judi Simmons. Notes taken by Matt Hobby.

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

- Welcome to new member Chris Persheff
- Approved minutes from November 9

8:05-8:20pm 2022 priorities and projects (Haven Colgate and Mary Lambert)

- Discussion of how to track members’ priorities
- Next step: CC members to review list of activities and fill out spreadsheet (see 2nd tab)
- Follow-up item: Need for someone to organize nature walks
- Burke Estate phragmites and goat options
- Hillside Woods fencing and funding
- Vine Squad this Saturday December 18

8:20-8:45 pm Education Campaigns on Yard Care and Engine Idling (Haven Colgate)

- Options for educating homeowners and landscapers - January landscaper meet up?
- Incentive programs for landscapers
- Registered landscaping firms and unlicensed firms
- Harmonizing leaf blower rules and dates between Rivertowns
- American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA)
- Awesome new Engine Idling flyer for Hillside
- Potential Village law changes:
  o Parking Enforcement to give out tickets for idling (currently not possible since it is considered a moving violation) (Need to replicate NYC law)
  o Remote start regulations (Need to replicate NYC law banning this)

8:45-8:55pm Land Care committees

- Pollinator Pathway (Margie Lavender)
  o Encouraging Polli-neighbors
  o Pesticides and Native Plants in Spring, Leaving your Leaves in Fall
  o Plans to outreach large institutions with significant lawn acreage
- Parks & Rec (Amy Listerman)
  o Pollinator Pathway and Bioswale-friendly projects
Options for 9A parcel
Options for Uniontown

8:55-9:05pm  Other Committees

- Climate Smart Communities (Mary Lambert)
  - Continuing on track

- Sidewalks update (Mary Lambert)
- Zero Waste Advisory Task Force (ZWAT) (Aarthi Muthukrishnan)
  - Hudson Compost Services growing residential base
  - Need to figure out how to expand HCS to restaurant pick up (think thru potential economic savings of diverting food scraps away from trash)
  - Potential locations for TIOLI (Take it or Leave it) shed - Andrus location under consideration
  - Website progress - HastingsZeroWaste.org to be launched soon
  - Plastic utensils as opt-in, not opt-out for restaurant take-out customers

- Inter-Village Rivertowns quarterly meetings (Haven Colgate)
- Westchester-wide meeting planned for February via NYSACC (NYS Assn of CC’s)

9:05-9:20pm  New Business and Announcements

- Potential for micro-forests
- Overlap of Conservation Commission with
  - Zoning Board and Planning Board
  - Comprehensive Plan

9:20pm  Meeting ended

Next meeting: January 11, 2022