

Village of Hamburg Environmental Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2024
Hamburg Village Hall, 100 Main St., Hamburg, NY 14075

Present: Chair- Adrienne Punturiero, Village Liaison - Holly Park, Kim Bourke, Andy Schrauth, Gerry Stockmeyer

Excused: Mike Reilly, Kathryn Walsh, Stu Wheaton

Absent: n/a

Guests: n/a

General Notes:

- No updates on the *E. coli* in the creek. Village DPW and Erie County Sewer will continue to look into the problem in the spring.
- Recycling discussion was tabled.
- We briefly discussed trying to streamline tree request forms in order to take some of the burden off of Andy in regards to getting trees planted in the Village
- Adrienne will be absent from the March meeting, Kim will chair the meeting, and Andy will take notes.

Budget

- Our total budget as of our meeting on February 4, 2025 stands at **\$7,777.66**. \$3,000 of that total is left over from the 2023-2024 budget year.
- The group discussed some items we would like to spend some of our budget on this year, they included:
 1. A locking, outdoor bulletin board for the new kiosk in the bird sanctuary.
 2. Potentially some bike racks around the Village, if necessary
 3. The group agreed that perhaps our budget shouldn't be spent on trash can/liners, this topic will be discussed in future meetings and budget discussions.

ACTIONS: 1. Kim will print out some bulletin board examples to discuss at our next meeting, the group can discuss size, features, and cost for the board.

Bird Sanctuary

- New Kiosk tasks (a plaque, and Sun article) were tabled at this meeting (Stu was excused)
- Enchanted Forest Walk lights were all taken down on 1/11/25, totes were purchased, and lights and battery have been stored away for the year.

- Thank you notes still need to be sent to the residents of Crescent Ave. (can be written on Village Thank you cards)
- Direction Sign from the Overlook to the Bird Sanctuary still needs to be made. It will be hung in the kiosk by 10,000 Vines. The purpose of the sign is to direct visitors to the Crescent St. Entrance of the Bird Sanctuary who have followed Google Maps directions which mistakenly take you to the Overlook on Main Street.
- PRISM Grant was submitted on Jan. 31, 2025. Unclear when we should hear which projects are chosen. If ours is chosen, we will have the assistance of a PRISM (Program for Regional Invasive Species Management) field crew to help us eradicate the black locust in the meadow of the Bird Sanctuary.
 - If we do not receive the crew assistance from PRISM, we have somewhat of a plan in place to start to rid the meadow of the black locust ourselves
- Invasive Species Task Force: The PRISM grant may help start the inertia needed to get this group together. We really just need a spread sheet of contact info for folks who would be interested in helping out with removing invasive plants in the bird sanctuary, and helping to plant native plants
- The group would like to update the PDF about the Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanctuary on the Village Website. Currently, it is a very old, and hard to read document. We would like it to include directions on how to get there, trail information, a map, and maybe even what bird species of birds you might find there
- The group discussed updating the Erie County GIS map, because the bird sanctuary is still labeled as “Residential Vacant Land” and it needs to be updated to “Municipal Parkland”
- Spring Work Day *tentatively* scheduled for May 10, 2025. More details to be discussed in future meetings. Work day will include removing small trees from the south side of the Meadow habitat, and making sure all of the paths throughout the sanctuary are clear and walkable.

- ACTIONS:
1. Kat & Kim will coordinate on Thank you notes to the residents on Crescent St.
 2. Andy will make the direction sign from the Overlook to the Bird Sanc. Kim will print and hang in once completed
 3. Gerry will work on the PDF update for the Anna Mae Bacon Bird Sanc for the Village website
 4. Kim will try to contact the Erie County GIS office to have the Bird Sanc. Land class updated to reflect it being a municipal park

Climate Smart/Solar Campaign

- Once the Parks & Rec department receive their new battery operated equipment, and once DPW receives the new Ford Lightening, we need to make sure we get a photo and an announcement up on Social Media. We are still unsure if Parks & Rec received their equipment. DPW is in the works with a dealer to supply the new Ford Lightening
- Dare to Repair is booked for August 23, 2025 in the Hamburg Public Library, more details to be discussed as that date gets closer

Earth Day Event

- The Palace Theater is unable to screen “The Big Year” due to copyright issues. Unless another movie is suggested, we plan to see if they can screen “Dancing With the Birds” a documentary about Birds of Paradise
- We discussed having a scavenger hunt, an bird-themed treats to hand out
- Potential tabling groups that have been discussed (we probably only need 5 or 6 of these groups in attendance):
 1. Merit Badge Books
 2. Scouts groups (?)
 3. Live Birds - Hawk Creek
 4. Buffalo Audubon Society
 5. Village Engaged
 6. Native Plants (for the birds) - Royal Fern Nursery
 7. Clydes - Bird seed/feeders?
 8. Earth Spirit
 9. Environmental Conservation Commission

ACTION: 1. Kat will reach out to Jay to see if they can screen “Dancing With the Birds”
2. Holly will reach out to the potential tabling groups for the event

Sesquicentennial Paver

- All members have contributed their own share to cover the cost of the paver stone that will be placed as part of the new walkway in front of Village Hall.
- Adrienne repaid Holly the money she owed her, as Holly had overpaid

Memorial Park Tree Sculpture

- A Sugar Maple tree was removed from Memorial Park, the DPW left about 12’ of it standing so that maybe another chainsaw tree sculpture could be completed there
- The committee decided that it doesn’t make sense for us to use our budget on this particular project, Adrienne may see if Imagine:Hamburg might be interested in funding this project.
- The design and funding would need to be approved by the Parks department and Village Board before anything can be done with the tree

Erie County Environmental Management Council

- New appointment needs to come from the Mayor. Mayor Tallman has been in contact with Matt Bourke to replace Holly as the Village Representative.
- No application will be submitted for their Environmental Excellence Award this year

Next meeting date: **Tuesday, March 4, 2024** at Village Hall, 100 Main St. Hamburg, NY 14075

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Bourke