

Hastings-on-Hudson Conservation Commission
Annual Report
2020

Members: Sharon Kivowitz, Chair; Haven Colgate, Andrew Ratzkin, Patrick McKenzie, Sashi Nivarthi, Kerry-Jane King, Jean Hamerman

During the calendar year 2020, the Hastings-on-Hudson Conservation Commission met on a regular basis to prioritize actions to preserve the local environment, advance sustainability measures, and enhance the wellbeing of Hastings-on-Hudson residents.

The following projects were pursued by the Commission or subgroups established by and reporting to the Commission:

1. Green Building Code
 - a. Revisions to Code submitted to BOT. Major revisions include:
 - i. Addition of new section covering new construction of residential developments consisting of 4 or more dwelling units;
 - ii. Incorporation of New York Stretch Code passed by BOT and deletion of all sections of the GBC that are covered by New York Stretch
 - iii. Increase of the required number of additional points required to be achieved for each section.
 - iv. Addition of Low-embodied Carbon Concrete
 - v. Update to all references to other codes, standards, etc.

2. Hillside Woods - In collaboration with the Hastings Parks and Recreation Department & Parks & Rec Commission
 - a. Continued working with the Hillside Woods Steering Committee
 - b. Installed Kiosk with residents; established Protect Our Woods
 - c. Logged over 1,000 volunteer hours since July 2020
 - i. Volunteers tagged over 1600 invasive trees along paths and woods edges
 - ii. Recorded over 900 Barberry Bushes
 - iii. Performed over 20 invasive shrub removal sessions
 - d. Outlined exclosure pilot plot - Parks has begun to fell invasive trees in pilot area (prep for fencing)
 - e. Submitted grant application for riparian area by Sugar Pond
 - f. Involved youth
 - g. Conducted nature walks, bird walks, plant ID walks, and meditation walks in collaboration with Parks & Rec Dept.
 - h. Assisted with agreement with Bartlett Tree Service for research on Beech Leaf Disease

- i. Liaised with school administration to integrate the schools/students with the Woods
 - j. Conducted walks with AP Environmental Science classes
 - k. Developed [Hillside Woods Website](#) and curated [HW pages on Village website](#)
3. Assisted and Liaised with Pollinator Pathway Project
 - a. Assisted with website for pollinator pathway project
 - b. Worked with Village Manager and BOT on Adopt-a-Spot program
 - c. Consulted on municipal projects
4. Climate Smart Communities
 - a. Assisted the CSC Task Force in achieving bronze and silver certifications
5. Walkability/Bikeability
 - a. Worked with various political representatives to engage the NYS Department of Transportation on Route 9 Corridor recommendations
 - b. Began preparing a master bike plan for the Village
 - c. Pursued additional bike parking at train station (postponed due to Covid)
6. Waste
 - a. Food Scraps Collection
 - i. 21 totes per week usually filled to capacity
 - ii. Continue to register households that use the service; up to 305 and counting (and: many more use it that haven't bothered to register)
 - b. Advised Village on Proper Waste Disposal and Appropriate Receptacles
 - c. Worked with Village to improve DPW Webpages
 - d. Zero Waste Subcommittee
 - i. Planned municipal waste audit delayed due to Covid
7. Public Outreach and Education
 - a. Earth Day Lecture Series (7 lectures with Q/A)
 - b. While-You-Are-Cooped-Up List of Films, Ted Talks, and Podcasts on Various Environmental Topics for Adults and Children Disseminated to Village Email List
 - c. Danskammer Power Plant Resolution to BOT
 - d. Woods/Ecological Education
 - e. Hosted iNaturalist Earth Month "Bioblitz" encouraging community science
8. CC Members Participation on Boards and Committees
 - a. HOH Parks and Recreation Commission
 - b. Sawmill Watershed Advisory Board

- c. Planting Westchester
- d. HOH Beautification Committee
- e. HOH Climate Smart Communities Task Force
- f. Intervillage Sustainability Committee
- g. Westchester Soil and Water Conservation District
- h. Westchester Climate Smart Communities Task Force
- i. Safe Routes to School Committee
- j. HOH Shoreline Committee