

Town of Ithaca Conservation Board
Thursday December 6, 2018
Final Minutes

Members Present: James Hamilton, Elizabeth Hageman, Hannah George, Mike Roberts, Eva Hoffmann, Lindsay Dombroskie

Staff: Mike Smith (Senior Planner)

1. Persons to be heard: None
2. Member concerns: Eva discussed composting at Kendal. Hannah and Eva will try to work on a brochure/instructions to make it easier for residents. Mike R. suggested Hannah and Lindsay work on making community education available for residents.
Mike R. updated the board on the plan to initiate a deer management program starting February 1. A deer damage permit will be granted to the town to allow private landowners to shoot over bait. More to come over the next month.
3. Chair and Coordinator reports:
Planner-Mike Smith
 - i. An EIS review is still happening for the Chainworks project.
 - ii. No determination for an EIS for the Cornell Campus dormitory expansion yet.
 - iii. The Conservation Board (CB) decided to support a ban on single use plastic bags and will work on a support letter to be sent to Tompkins County. James will draft the letter and send out by email.
 - iv. Finger Lakes Research Conference is rescheduled for Jan. 23.
 - v. The town was awarded a grant to work on removing invasive species and replanting natives on the South Hill Recreation Way. There may be opportunities for the CB to participate in some of the outreach and replanting events.
4. November minutes were not available for review.
5. Agriculture, Food & Environmental Systems In-service held at Cornell University. Mike R. reported on some interesting examples of how other communities combat invasive species. In addition, there was an interesting presentation on how to engage community members to make behavior changes in regard to how they view environmental issues.
6. Reports/Updates
 - a. ERC- Nothing to report
 - b. SRC- Still awaiting copies of the papers for the sign on 96B. A "Use and Occupancy" permit must be approved by the NYS Department of Transportation.
 - c. Communications Committee- Nothing to report
 - d. Tompkins County EMC- Nothing to report
 - e. Six Mile Creek- BMI sampling may lose another team member; Joane due to statistical analytics mishap had to count way too many Identified Organisms in her late summer sample and doubts she'll want to do it again. We had 4 teams in '17, lost one to retirement in VT, of the 3 teams sampling in '18, we may have only 2 for '19. Lab is still

hosting BMI Thursdays for the preserved sample ID & analyses. CSI is presenting "Drinking Water Wednesdays", starting Dec 12 at Brooktondale Community Center 5:30-7 pm with lab and Health Dept staff explaining basic info on safe drinking water, including cyanobacteria in Cayuga possibly contaminating that water source. The Six Mile water samplers Sept 18th flood sample data still hasn't been entered on CSI's website.

- f. Cornell Botanic Gardens- Volunteers weeded woody invasives on south bank of Fall Creek upstream of Flat Rocks, below Arboretum; rabbit fenced trees and perennials in PPF; collected rare fringed gentian seeds along Neimi Rd fish ponds; planted & deer-caged native perennials and trees on Cascadilla Creek bank SW of new Game Farm Rd bridge and partied to celebrate volunteer work 11/30.
 - g. Deer Management Committee- see above (members concerns).
7. Other Business
- a. 2019 meeting schedule was approved with a motion by Elizabeth and a second from Eva.
 - b. Mike R. was nominated and approved to continue to chair the board in 2019 (moved by James, seconded by Elizabeth).
 - c. Hannah was nominated and approved to be Vice- Chair for 2019 (moved by Elizabeth, seconded by James).
8. Work Goals-
- a. Some bluebird boxes were recently cleaned out. May need to add little doors to ensure mice do not inhabit the boxes.

Adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Minutes drafted by Elizabeth Hageman.