



VILLAGE OF HYDE PARK

PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of August 8, 2018

The duly warned regular monthly meeting of the Planning Commission was held on August 8, 2018 in the Lanpher Memorial Library.

Members Present

Frederika French, Chair
Charlie Aronovici
Peter Gallo
Ken McPherson

Others Present

Carol Robertson, General Manager
Denise Greene, Hyde Park Energy Committee
Jay Hersh, Chair, Hyde Park Energy Committee

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. There were no public comments. The agenda was approved.

The Chair recognized Denise Greene for her presentation to educate and encourage less mowing on public and private land.

{Summary provided by Denise Greene}

Save energy by mowing LESS!

- 1. Cut down the number of times you mow your lawn from once a week to every 10 days or more.*
- 2. Eliminate sections of lawn and allow some of your yard to become meadow, many species of pollinator friendly plants will thrive allowing bumblebees and butterflies to thrive (more info at xerces.org). Meadows can be planted with say, milkweed or red clover, or just allowing natives to flourish. A word of caution, meadows must be monitored for exotic and invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, Chinese honeysuckle, and poison parsnip which if caught early can be removed. Keep up to date on exotic or invasive species by monitoring the UVM Extension website, contacting a UVM Extension Master Gardener or submitting pictures to the UVM Extension website if you are in doubt about a plant.*
- 3. Keep trees from growing up in your meadow, brush-hog every Fall well after frost has occurred, or plant native shrubs such as serviceberries, chokeberries, high bush blueberries, etc. and trim around them.*

Why?

1. *Gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment ranging from string trimmers to leaf blowers and tractor mowers are a source of high levels of localized emissions or smog. They contribute to atmospheric carbon and climate change. Extensive evidence exists on the adverse health effects of exhaust emissions and other fine particulates which include cardiovascular disease, stroke, respiratory disease, cancer, neurological conditions, premature death, and effects on prenatal development. Source: EPA.gov*
2. *Save money on equipment and fuel. Lower these two items in your household budget and save.*
3. *Meadows are disappearing in Lamoille County and with them are many species of important pollinators such as bumblebees, critical to the pollination of blueberry crops; and as well, butterflies and moths which provide food for many populations of wild birds.”*

{End of Denise Greene’s presentation.}

There was a lengthy discussion about ways and means to encourage pollinator strips within the Village, and to continue the effort. Denise Greene and Jay Hersh departed the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

There was a report by members of the Better Connections Roads Group and Village Roads Working Group – Tim Yarrow, Ken McPherson and Charlie Aronovici. Charlie Aronovici announced his resignation from the Better Connection Roads Group and the Village Roads Working Group. There was a discussion. Ken McPherson stated his intention to consider continuing his participation. There was a lengthy discussion, with the Board expressing safety concerns about Sylvan Road, as well as the condition of roads within the Village.

Motion by Peter Gallo and second by Charlie Aronovici to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. The motion carried.

Riki French, Chair

Date