

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING ON OCTOBER 6, 2009 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE REGATTA BUILDING OF THE VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK, 123 MAMARONECK AVENUE, MAMARONECK NY 10543.

Present: Alice Pernick, Chair. Sarah Robbins Evans, Elsa Puerto-Rubin, Jean Peron, Toni Ryan, Liaison

Absent: Kate Hearst, Top O'Brien, Kevin LaFollette.

The minutes of September 15, 2009 were approved unanimously.

Discussion Topics:

Non-Agenda Item – CFTE Website: Alice suggested that the webpage description of the CFTE be updated. Toni will look into it.

Agenda Items:

Missing Minutes:

The Committee is missing several months of minutes.

Bike Racks:

Alice said bike racks are coming, but had no further details. In answer to a question that was made at a previous meeting, a moratorium to the Village code prohibiting bikes from being locked onto anything but bike racks cannot be made.

Leaf Blower Review:

Should a citizen see a violation of the Leaf Blower Law, he/she should note the name of the violating company and phone it in to the Police or Building Departments, which will then follow up. The Leaf Blower Law Signs should be removed until next spring. Toni will look into it. Toni will also consult with the Board as to whether the Committee should write a letter and to whom.

ICLEI Audit:

Elsa reported on the meeting with Larchmont's Environmental Committee on September 15:

“Regarding ICLEI, the VOL has accomplished the first 2 required milestones (out of 5):

Milestone 1. *Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast.*

The inventory was conducted by a sub-committee headed by Carol Casazza, Chair of the Committee on the Environment and 2 other members who are proficient in database programs. (Baseline year is 2005)

”Milestone 2. *Adopt an emissions reduction target for the forecast year.*

The VOL Board of Trustees agreed in January 2009, to reduce the footprint of Village operations 20% by 2015

“They are presently working on:

Milestone 3. *Developing a Local Action Plan.*

However, they are faced with the setback of having to upgrade to the new ICLEI software, which does not allow for carrying over data. Instead, all the data that was previously entered has to be re-entered. According to them, this is an electronic transfer glitch in ICLEI’s software and they (Carol and her sub-committee) are scheduling to enter all the data again.

“Their database is rather small compared to that of the VOM’s. Marlene Kolbert, Trustee liaison to the BOT, pointed out that the scope of our database is more comparable to the that of Town of Mamaroneck. She suggested that we contact the TOM and compare notes with them. I’ll contact Nancy Seligson, who is in charge of the ICLEI project in the TOM.

“I will contact Carol of Larchmont Environmental Committee to ask if they could train people on our committee in using the Audit Software.

Farmer’s Market:

As there were some issues with the St. Thomas location of the Winter Farmer’s Market, Miriam Hass (from Community Markets) is looking for a different location for this winter. Elsa feels we should still prepare for the Market’s returning to St. Thomas this winter.

Elsa will investigate a farmer’s market in New Rochelle to determine if they might be interested in having a winter farmer’s market in the VOM.

Composting Film: Video Cameraman Henry Felt will be unavailable for a few weeks and not be able to add footage on local composters and worm ranch to the composting film until then.

Larchmont Committee:

In addition to her report on the ICLEI audit, Elsa reported on other facets of the Larchmont Committee, which she attended on September 15, as follows:

“There are remarkable differences between our Committee and theirs, mainly: Their Committee consists of 13 members and they are divided in sub-committees. Each sub-committee tackles a different task/project, thereby making it easier to stay focused and to meet deadlines.

“They are working on a variety of projects, among others:

CO2 Reduction and Energy Reduction

Recycling

Pesticides Reduction

Composting/Gardening

Transportation

Greening of the Village Code
 Farmers Market
 Open Space Inventory
 Community reach-out and communications
 Enforcement of Laws with VOL Police Chief (idling, leaf blower, etc.)

“I will keep in touch with Carol and the rest of the Committee as there are projects in which we all can work together, i.e. Community reach-out and communications, composting, etc.

“This Saturday they are sponsoring a “Community Day” from 10A-3P. From 10A-12M they will have the Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup at Manor Park where, in collaboration with the Sheldrake Environment Center, they will collect, inventory and remove debris from the coastline. From 11A-3P Larchmont Avenue will be closed for the first Autumn Festival.

“Please note that this coincides with the Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce cleanup beginning at 10am at the Heithaus Walkway (Mamaroneck Ave. near CVS).”

Harbor Island Recycling:

Rich Slingerland, Village Manager, is exploring adding recycling bins to Harbor Island.

Idling Law Enforcement:

Sarah will draft recommendations regarding the lack of enforcement, and will find out to which department it should be sent. (Village Manager, PD)

MicroGreen Oil Filters

Rich Slingerland has been asked to address their usage in the VOM..

High School Field:

There is a fund-raising effort by Mamaroneck School parents to have a field covered with artificial turf. Alice will discuss this matter with our Village Attorney as to the legalities involved .

Cool Cities:

On October 24, Cool Cities will have an event regarding carbon emissions and global warming (350.org). Alice will create a CFTE flyer for distribution at this event.

Cartridge and Cell Phone Recycling:

Sarah and Jean will assess need for sending a shipment of these items for recycling.

Next meeting is November 27, 2009.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Peron