

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF
DECEMBER 15, 2010, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL REGATTA, 123
MAMARONECK AVE, MAMARONECK NY 10543.

Present: Sarah Robbins Evans, Kate Hearst, Joan Heilman, Ann Metcalfe,
Jean Peron, Michaela Zeuss, Elsa Puerto-Rubin, Monica Barach (new
member), Toni Ryan, Liaison,

Excused: Katherine Kaneko, Catherine Hiller,
Unexcused: Tom O'Brien, Kevin LaFollette

Guest: Chief of Police Leahy

Sarah welcomed Police Chief Leahy and began the discussion of the issues:.
Issue 1 – The idling law. The present law is written to address idling on
Village property. It also permits idling for three minutes and unlimited
idling when temperature is 44 degrees and under. The committee will re-
write the law, based on those of other communities and submit it to the BOT
as a replacement for the current law. It will give the law more teeth for ease
of enforcement by the PD. Bellows School handed out leaflets to idling
drivers.

Issue 2 The leaf-blower law. Chief Leahy said there have been several
summons issued but it is difficult to catch the person in the act of leaf-
blowing, and it must be witnessed by a policeman in order for a summons to
be issued.

Issue 3 – Recycling by the PD. Up until now there was no incentive for the
PD to recycle as the cleaning crew mixed the trash at the end of the day.
Recently a new cleaning company was hired with instructions to keep trash
and recycling separate. He said the recycling bins are placed next to trash
bins.

Issue 4 – Bike safety. The Chief said that bike safety is a concern of the PD
and encourages bike safety education in the schools. He said drivers should
be aware of the bike rules as well and perhaps the Driving School in
Mamaroneck should help educate new drivers.

The Chief said he wants to work together with the CFTE to implement best
recycling practices in every area. Michaela said there should be give-and-
take between our committee and the PD.

Kate said that education is critical in making public aware of present laws.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for November 16, 2010, meeting were approved.

Reports of Subcommittees:

Bike trails in County – Kate handed out a draft plan on “Potential Routing for New York State Bicycle Route 1 and the East Coast Greenway in Westchester County.” She said the bike trail would not involve Boston Post Road in Mamaroneck but would be re-routed to Halstead Avenue. She added that the effort is now on hold, as the Environment Officer, Herbert Lucas, a Westchester government employee has been told that he has other more pressing responsibilities than the bike path. Kate hopes that our Committee can generate County interest in this bike path.

There is a bike safety program at Bellows to teach rules of bike etiquette and safety rules.

CFTE Website.

Joan and Ann met with Deputy Clerk Sally Roberts, Village Manager Rich Slingerland, and Deputy Manager Dan Sarnoff to discuss our needs for a website. Sally said the committee is free to put any relevant content that we would like on our segment of the Village website. Joan and Ann listed many subjects and asked the Committee to suggest others. They said we will be linked to the Village home page and other useful sites. Joan said we would like to find a creative person who can help design our pages. Sarah said perhaps an Apple Program student, David Johnson, would be able to help.

Apple Program Senior – David Johnson

As mentioned above, Sarah will seek David's help with website design. She will also like him to help with the composting film.

ICLEI Audit –Jean reported that she has sent the report to ICLEI for review. They said that although they would accept the report as is, there are two items that should be added. Jean will add them and resend.

Potential Candidates for the CFTE

Sarah welcomed the new member, Monica Barach, to the committee and said there are potential candidates waiting for openings on the committee.

Update on the absence issue.

Letters to those with three or more unexcused absences have not yet been sent.

Elections certified. After much delay, the November 2, 2010, elections have been certified. New-elected trustees are Toni Ryan, John Hofstetter and Sid Albert. Christie Derrico is the newly-elected justice.

Outreach – Michaela's attendance at other meetings – other reports?

Kate will attend the Rye Sustainability Meeting in December.

Michaela attended the Larchmont Environment Committee meeting and reported on her findings. She said they have very interesting issues:

» Deconstruction suggestions for disposing of materials which are being replaced by remodeling construction.

» Pesticide reduction policies – stressing minimization of pesticides instead of total elimination.

» Planning a Forum for Children's Health discussing toxins in environment that may cause health problems in children.

Michaela said Larchmont is also working on Bike Safety, Recycling and is working on the ICLEI audit.

Michaela contacted the National Highway Safety Institute and got activity sheet on children's bike safety to be handed out to schools.

New Business:

Goals for researching how to eliminate bulk mail:

The public should be educated on how to remove their names from bulk mailing lists in order to reduce paper. Research is needed to find out how to go about implementing this.

Appointment of Co-Chair – Tonight's meeting is Elsa's last. As she was co-chair with Sarah, a new co-chair is needed. Michaela has accepted that position and will be our new co-chair.

Announcement:

The committee thanked Elsa Puerto-Rubin for her able leadership as co-chair. Sarah served light refreshments in her honor.

Next meeting date: January 18, 2011

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Peron