

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2010, AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COURT ROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE, MAMARONECK NY 10543.

Present: Sarah Robbins Evans, Kate Hearst, Jean Peron, Elsa Puerto-Rubin, Joan Heilman, Tom O'Brien

Excused: Toni Ryan, Liaison

Unexcused Absence: Kevin LaFollette

Guest: Emily Grotta, Patch Publications - Stuart Tiekert, Tree Committee

Tree Committee: Stuart Tiekert spoke to the Committee about reviving the Tree Committee. He said the responsibilities of the Tree Committee are budgeting, planning for maintenance of trees, and monitoring of legal aspects of tree trimming and cutting by utilities. There presently are three people on the committee. Stuart requested the support of the CFTE.

Approval of Minutes: Corrections to the minutes of January 19, 2009 will be made and sent to the Committee for their approval by email.

ICLEI Audit: Jean reported that natural gas usage, electrical usage, gasoline and heating oil have been entered so far on the CACP database. She handed out a report generated by the software listing the energy usage so far. She will continue to collect data.

2nd Winter Farmer's Market: The vendors are happy with the amount of people attending each week. Activities and entertainment have been scheduled for future Saturdays to encourage attendance. Kate will compile a list of green activities to be handed out at the market along with pamphlets on composting and lawn care. A representative from Community Markets will be at our April meeting.

Composting Film AND The Apple High School Program: Students will have input to the film and have agreed to work on it after March 8. Composting and lawn care, such as mulching, will be incorporated in the film. It will be about 10 minutes long.

Hampshire Country Club: Kate reported that 50 homes can legally be built on the property. Much of it is wetlands and some is zoned for marine recreation. She said Valerie O'Keefe, Town of Mamaroneck Supervisor, is interested in making it a combined Town/Village effort which might include playing fields. Kate spoke to Tom Anderson about preserving open space, perhaps involving the Westchester Land Trust.

Kate wrote a letter to the BOT reminding them that this space should be available for use by all ages. The Committee will take about a week to edit some of the letter's wording and voted in favor of sending it when it is finalized.

Elsa asked the Committee to consider if our support of open land might be setting a precedent for other parcels of land that may arise. The general feeling was that any future parcels will be reviewed by the Committee on a case-by-case basis. Kate said that the Orienta Point Association wants to keep it as open space and will ask for a moratorium on sale of the property. They will obtain legal counsel.

Mission Statement: With a minor correction, the Committee voted to replace the current mission statement with the version written by Joan Heilman. Joan will send it to Toni.

Sustainability Expo: Presently headed by Jennifer Jensen Date is April 24. Names of interested speakers on environmental issues are needed. There are four areas of concentration:

Energy Efficiency

Children's Health

Composting

Promote awareness of the "Reduce, Recycle and Re-Use" slogan

Sarah will send with contact information an email for suggestions and volunteers. Kate will send pamphlets and lists as well as suggest speakers.

Green Week –Merchants, Library Program. Merchants and libraries will be involved with the Expo Summit Meeting.

Anti-Idling Campaign – month of April: The Committee previously recommended that the BOT agree to enforce the County Law (as opposed to initiating its own law.) The BOT has acted upon our advisory letter. Representatives from each school are needed to support enforcement.

Spring Clean-Up: Tom O'Brien has volunteered to spearhead a community clean-up. Date is May 1. He will discuss with Toni.

Setting Goals and priorities for 2010: The committee agreed to request an increase in membership from 7 to 11 members. Goals will be discussed at the March meeting depending upon the BOT's decision on the increase. If agreed to, subcommittees will be formed and specific goals assigned to each subcommittee

Community Outreach: Jennifer Jensen, Representative of Larchmont Environment Committee met with Sarah to explain the upcoming EXPO.

Summary of the League of Women Voters' Breakfast on the Environment: Sarah summarized the discussion at the breakfast on February 5th. Its

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focus was on regulation of drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale which spans 600 miles and 4 states. The concern expressed by speakers at the meeting was that without proper regulation, serious threats to human health and the environment will occur. Examples: contamination of our drinking water, and pollution of surrounding wetlands.

Next meeting is March 16, 2010.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Peron