

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2011, AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL COURT ROOM , 169 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

Present: Sarah Evans, Michaela Zeuss, Cathy Hiller, Jean Peron, Joan Heilman, Phil Horner , Monica Barach, Toni Ryan (Liaison)

Absent: Kathy Kaneko, Ann Metcalfe, Kate Hearst

Guest: Kathie Desmond who spoke on Water Quality at HI

Kathie Desmond explained that she first became involved with water quality many years ago when she looked into why the Mamaroneck Beach was closed. After educating herself in depth on the policies and procedures of the HI Master Plan and the Health Dept. she found the Harbor was unacceptably polluted due in large part to illegal sanitary sewer hookups but also because of illegal dumping by building contractors, supermarkets, and collapsing pipes. She mentioned several reports on the subject, (see "Handout" on P.5), which helped her to understand the what the water issues are. She advises that this knowledge should be summarized and passed onto the Village administrators. See the Handout on P 5 for her recommendations.

Agenda:

Minutes of May 17 meeting were approved.

Sub-Committee Reports

No idling law enforcement –the committee discussed the difficulty of enforcement, but will keep encouraging enforcement.

Recycling –

Plastic Bag Issue- No report.

Revised recycling rules: Joan suggested sending the new recycling rules to neighborhood associations and post information on public signs that belong to our Committee – near Post Office and at Harbor Island. She's waiting to hear from Village Manager, Rich Slingerland about rewriting the recycling brochure. Recycling leaflets will be available in library and at Village Hall.

Recycling Center – Phil visited the Recycling Center and found, as Joan did, the need for proper signage on dumpsters and trucks. Joan said that the Larchmont Center is being re-done in September and perhaps we should wait to see what they do.

Jean will speak to manager of Stop and Shop to clarify the reason why those recyclables that are not accepted at machines are not recycled by the store.

LWRP –June 11, 2011 meeting and Phil's involvement: Phil has been accepted as a member of the LWRP committee. He reported that his findings of the June 11 meeting were that the committee is focused on the jurisdictional matters among the HCZM , Planning Board and Building Dept. He sent the committee members an email requesting their input so he can advise if the topics are being covered by the committee.

EPA letter regarding water quality – update - Phil reported that the Village submitted a remediation plan to the EPA for approval as a response to their complaint. Rich Slingerland, sent an email to Katherine Desmond promising to put the plan on the Village website when it is accepted. Then he will post quarterly reports o progress, (public information).

Communication – Joan will send green articles to newspapers.

Missing Minutes – Michaela will talk to Sally Roberts, Deputy Clerk regarding minutes missing from the website.

Green Businesses – Jean will send information requested by Toni to Michaela for web publication.

Transportation – No Idling Law flyers will be distributed to the PD.

ICLEI Energy Report – Jean reported that the energy subcommittee has now reached the second milestone, (targeting high emission users), and requested that the Village Board agree on a goal for lowering emissions by deciding on percentage of reductions and timeframe so that the remaining ICLEI milestones may go forward. Phil has sent an email, along with the subcommittee's request, to Toni asking that she bring it before the BOT. Cathy asked that mention of Cool Cities be included in the request and Jean will revise it.

Old Business:

Anti-Idling Law –Although enforcement is difficult, the public will become aware of it through constant reinforcement.

Harbor Island Fair Takeaways – As suggested by Cathy, next year's fair should have activities attractive to kids – e.g. giveaways, contests, etc. We should also consider purchase of an awning for members to sit under and to hang signs.

New Business

Committee member additions and resignations:

Katherine Kaneko has submitted her resignation, effective immediately.

Marc Karell will join our committee after he is approved by the BOT.

Kathie Desmond will be approached for possible membership

ICLEI work files - Jean will discuss with Toni as to where at Village Hall should these files should be housed.

Procedures regarding CFTE expenditures - All expenditures should be discussed and approved by our Committee, then brought to Accounts Payable clerk, Helen Langerfeld.

350.org – Sept. 24 on bikes –●

Moving Planet is a world wide website that is organizing a rally on Sept 24, 2011 to demand solutions to the climate crisis—“a single day to move away from fossil fuels.”

Cathy asked that the Committee decide on whether to sponsor this rally. Cathy will coordinate this effort, should the Committee approve.

SWEAC-NYSERDA- (Southern Westchester Energy Action Consortium) Michaela will contact Amy Rosmarin of North Salem to get more information regarding an alliance of towns for grouping together for grants, etc.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Peron

Next Meeting August 16, 2011

P3 – CTFE Meeting 6/21/11

Handout for the CFTE 6/21/11

For the average citizen or elected official, it takes plenty of work to understand the pollution at Harbor Island Beach. Citizens and officials need to understand information in these areas:

Science

Engineering

Government

Politics

Money

Law

Education (elected officials, general public)

Public Relations (getting the message out)

Choices:

What kind of Waterfront Village do we want Mamaroneck to be?

One with a clean public swimming beach?

If pollution is preventable, do we want to prevent it?

Recommendations:

- Elected Officials need have an basic **understanding of the sanitary sewer's contribution** to Harbor Pollution (WCHD finding: River and Stream water is relatively clean above the Village).

- Locate and **review every Village study** (Battelle, Satterthwaite, Baker, Savin, et al) and make sure that every recommendation has been or is being carried out.

- Utilize and confer with the **County DEF** to demonstrate the ongoing Village's commitment to completing sanitary sewer rehabilitation

- **Stop blaming the County** Trunk Lines (note upcoming “flow metering”)

- Set up **use the actual W&C CMOM Program** proposed for the DPW

- Use only **top notch consultants** and firms (the best costs the same as the worst)

- Share information (past, present, future) back and forth with **other municipalities**

- Tap into, visit and **learn from “up and running” clean water groups**: Bronx River Alliance, Soundkeeper, TBHA (The Boston Harbor Association), City Island etc.

- Keep close watch on bacteria **trends** as indicated by **WCHD Beach Samples**
(as sewers are repaired, does bacteria go down?)

- Follow up on **The Little Building That Could...** start with **just one fish tank** in the little bldg, have lots of little "clean water" flags, made by kids, flying, get (water savvy) College Students to run it in the summer (SUNY Purchase, College of New Rochelle, Iona, Pace, Manhattan, Westchester Community College, County recommended students of marine environment, or Nowalk). Visit Edith Read Sanctuary in Rye and confer with leaders there. See if original sketched out plans for simple adaptation of building still exist, meet with head of DPW to re-visit idea. **NEED TO WRITE "Mission Statement"**.

- The Mamaroneck Village **Clean Harbor Net Project**: buy and place (1 or 2) long handled (pool-type) nets at points around the Harbor, East and West Basin. put a **BIG**, readable, loud and clear, identification (Mamaroneck Clean Net Project) on the handle (use waterproof, plastic stick-on letters), figure out logistics...ie, how to oversee and manage project, how to **not** have net (s) disappear! (can be done)