

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2011 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: Sarah Evans Michaela Zeuss, Jean Peron, Marc Karell, Phil Horner, Ann Metcalfe, Monica Barach, Shonna Keogan, Toni Ryan (Liaison)

ABSENT: Joan Heilman, Cathy Hiller

Our new member, Shonna Keogen was introduced to the Committee. Shonna brings public relations skills to the Committee.

The minutes of October 18, 2011 were approved

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Recycling Committee:** Joan reported that the new recycling brochure is almost finished. Joan gave Michaela information to be put on the website on the Recycling Center and what can be dropped off there. Sally Roberts, Deputy Clerk, will be asked to send an email blast.

**Recycling & Communications** – Monica sent an email regarding leaf composting using a mulch mower. The mulch mower is specially fitted for this kind of mowing. This will become standard equipment eventually on all new mowers. It will be put on our website. Monica said we should discuss publicity on mulch mowing next September (2012). Ann will review status of mulch mowers laws of our neighboring communities.

**Transportation: night bike riding and walking.-** Michael would like a law to mandate proper night biking/walking practices and equipment. She suggests obtaining a grant for reflective arm bands and lights on bikes. Ann will review status of night biking laws of our neighboring communities.

**Community Outreach:** Michaela, Sarah and Cathy have been viewing possible films for the tri-municipal film festival. There will be 6 films (including two children's films). The Lorax will be one film, others to be determined, and will be shown on March 3. Details will be announced. Publicity is needed.

**Report Energy Audit:** Jean reported that the energy sub-committee met and discussed Monica's questions and Marc's offer to report on energy-and-emissions-savings practices to achieve the Village's goal of a 5% emissions reduction and their potential cost savings. Phil and Marc will discuss with Richard Slingerland, Village Manager, and Dan Sarnoff, his assistant to get specifics on how much energy has been saved so far and the projected savings of current projects. Phil will concentrate on budgetary implications and Marc on energy.

Toni added that the Town of Mamaroneck has a conservation expert and we should determine if the VOM can use him/her as a consultant. She feels it will result in cost benefits.

**Old Business:**

**No Idling Law:** November 30 will be a day of educating the Rye Neck parents on the No-Idling Law which exists in the VOM. There will be poster contests, emails to parents. In March, Michaela asked that the Committee approve another day set aside for educating parents of all Mamaroneck schools on the No-Idling Law, in which there will be publicity, emails and flyers handed out by the PD. The Committee approved.

**Plastic Bags Ban** – On November 16, there will be a lecture on the Ban. Monica created a merchant sign-up sheet for merchants supporting the ban.

**LWRP:** Following is the LWRP report by Phil for inclusion in the minutes:

**“The LWRP Committee held a Public Forum on November 2 which I attended.**

**There was considerable public input from concerned citizens and representatives of the maritime industry of Mamaroneck. The comments were somewhat critical of the format of the current draft document (too long and not focused). Comments from some individual Committee members agreed and called for a rewrite to address the problem.**

**Of special interest, the LWRP document in Section 2 mentions the CFTE as a possible monitor for the Village on Water Quality issues on a continuing basis but leaves this issue hanging.**

**I suggested that if the LWRP Committee does indeed revisit the draft document, the CFTE should review it and suggest improvements for issues of special concern about the environment.**

**The sense of the CFTE was to ask me to pursue both points above with the LWRP group.**

- **Namely, is there a consensus that the CFTE should have an ongoing monitoring role for environmental issues in the LWRP long range plan?**
- **Also does the LWRP group intend to conduct an extensive rewrite where CFTE input would be welcome. In effect, I was asked to get our Committee a judgment about whether it makes sense to spend our time and resources on producing LWRP input?”**

Phil also noted that the LWRP will eventually be used for guidance by the Harbor and Coastal Zone Committee.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Water Sub Committee (LWRP)**

Sarah called for creation of a Water Quality Sub Committee, referencing Mrs. Desmond’s letter of November 15, 2011 regarding re-creation of a Water Quality Subcommittee and using the CFTE as a monitoring group.. Sarah said we would be able to use the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) for guidance, as suggested by Mrs. Desmond and tap into all their activity and research. Note: Mrs. Desmond is a former member of the original Water Quality Group created several years ago and since disbanded.

Excerpts from her letter are as follows:

“Our Rivers, Streams and Harbor must have residents overseeing their health and welfare.”

“Recently, I’ve been outspoken on what I see as a major deficit in the LWRP rewrite: the omission of clarifying above duties, clearly outlined in 1984, under tasks of the Harbor Commission. Right now there is no Village Board or Commission specifically tasked to oversee issues pertaining to ‘Harbor Pollution and/or Harbor Ecology.’”

**Re-check website:** Michaela asked that we look at the composting film on the Committee’s website.

**Generators – license and regulation** – Sarah has expressed a concern over possible health issues of air sound pollution with the use of generators after storms and wondered if there are regulations for them and/or if there should be?

**Other Issues from Committee Members not listed on the agenda:**

Toni said that the LMC-TV should film this committee when special events arise.

**Next Meeting: December 20, 2011.**

Respectfully submitted: Jean Peron