

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2011,
AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL COURT ROOM 169 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE,
MAMARONECK, NY 10543

Present: Michaela Zeuss, Kate Hearst, Joan Heilman, Ann Metcalfe, Jean Peron, Monica Barach, Phil Horner (new member), Cathy Hiller, Katherine Kaneko, Toni Ryan, Liaison,

Excused: Sarah Evans

Unexcused: Kevin LaFollette

Minutes of December 15, 2010 were approved.

Michaela welcomed Phil Horner, our newest member. She announced that Tom O'Brien has resigned, and Kevin LaFollette will receive a letter requesting his resignation. It will be discussed by the BOT on January 24.

Recycling Committee: Monica noticed that the Post Office does not recycle its superfluous paper. Cathy will talk to the Post Master. Joan and Ann will talk to the PD to follow up on the recycling practices of the new cleaning crew at 169 Mt. Pleasant Ave.

Winter's Farmers' Market - is up and running. The committee will request a web blast advertising it. Kate said the public should be made aware of the additional parking in the back of the church available to patrons of the market.

Household Recycling Days- Also called "Household Waste Material Collection Days" will be held this spring as follows:
Playland Park, Rye, o Friday, March 18 (noon to 4 p.m) and Saturday, March 19 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m) . Also at FDR State Park, Yorktown on Friday, April 8 (noon to 4 p.m) and Saturday, April 9 (8 a.m to 4 p.m.) A permanent HHMR Facility (H-MRF) will open in Valhalla in June or July, 2011.

General Communications – nothing to report.

Website Development – Joan listed some of the items added to the website, e.g. Kill-A-Watt, e-waste information. She said that a website designer is still needed. Cathy will add environmental events and such events should be sent to her. Any additions to the web should go through the Website subcommittee.

Change Terms of Service of Committee Members on Website:- It was noted that there are incorrect terms of service listed on the web (Kate, Sarah and Phil). Michaela will notify Sally Roberts, Deputy Clerk.

Climate Change : nothing to report.

Community Outreach – Larchmont's CFTE is planning a children's health forum with speakers from Mt. Sinai on April 4, 2011 It was suggested that our committee should help Larchmont with the preparations. (Also see Michaela's notes below, item #6.)

Kate attended a Sustainability meeting in December, 2010. Her notes are attached to these minutes.

Michaela attended the Larchmont CTFE meeting. Her notes are attached to these minutes.

Phil thinks our Committee should monitor governmental environmental programs to keep up with the latest developments.

Invitations to Larchmont and Rye- Kate and Sara Goddard of Rye and Millie McGraw of Larchmont will keep in touch to determine where the two committees can help each other.

ICLEI Energy Audit – Jean reported that she sent the final report (Community Section) to Iclei and is now waiting for their approval.

Transportation: Bike Lane – Kate will send letter to promote Green Way in VOM. The purpose will be to get a dedicated bike path, with signs, in Mamk, to continue the connecting path that comes down from Maine all the way to Florida. She announced that Formula One Driving School will review bike safety rules with new drivers.

Anti-Idling Law: As the Village's anti-idling law is not in enacted as yet we will need to wait to propose any changes. Kathy suggested eventually putting up signs and discussing enforcement. See below addendum for the current Village Law and the Proposed Revised Law – Revised for the Village of Mamaroneck researched by Ann.

New Business:

Kathy has offered to write monthly environmental columns in the Sound Shore papers.

Recycling at Village Hall – Jean reported that the cartridge and phone recycling is going well. So far, digital cameras, which are newly-added items have not been recycled. A package of collected recycled items were sent in early January, 2011

City Light Pollution – Ann asked if the committee is interested in pursuing this. The committee agreed it is an environmental problem and should be studied.

LWV Meeting – Feb. 4 at Hector's Village Café – 8:15-9:45 – Topic is Afghanistan.

Green Week –. Cathy said we should participate in some way. We could support others' efforts or have our own event. Green Week is April 29th to May 6th.

Harbor Island Street Fair - This would be another event in which we should participate, possibly with Larchmont's Environment Committee.

Plastic Bag Problem -

Monica said we should have a letter-writing campaign to eliminate use of plastic bags. She will research how to go about this.

Next meeting date: February 15, 2011

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Peron

Addenda: »Kate Hearst's notes on Sustainability Meeting Dec, 2010

» Michaela's notes on Larchmont CTFE meeting of Dec, 2010 information on Larchmont Forum.

»Current and Proposed Village Idling Law

» Listing of updated subcommittee assignments.

Addendum #1:

Kate Hearst's Notes:

Rye Sustainability Committee Meeting of December 17, 2010

The Rye Sustainability Committee is essentially our Environmental Committee. They have 9 members appointed by the Mayor and Town of Rye Board with Sara Goddard heading the committee. Their committee has met only twice to date.

Their "to do" list includes (many tasks we are already doing!):

1. Starting ICELI
2. Beginning a Website
3. Creating a list of new initiatives once the ICELI report is finished.
4. Creating a Facebook Site - There was some discussion about the legality of this and the need to run this idea by their attorneys.
5. Each of their members drew up a "wish" list of environmental goals.
6. Putting together a Forum in March/April for "leaders"
7. Outreach with other environmental committees

March/ April Forum:

They are putting together a Forum for "Leaders" in Rye (key stakeholders, Town Board Members, and Local Businessmen). They are brainstorming about which issues to discuss: idling, recycling, leaf blowing and/or reducing pesticides. They are trying to figure out whom to invite to speak.

Kate Hearst's Notes - continued

On their list is: Patti Woods (Of "How Green is My Town?"), Megan Kaminer's son who teaches at NYU on Climate Change, Dr. Landrigan (Mt. Sinai).

(FYI, I have connections with Patti Wood and her organization. The parents' committee I co-chair at Rye Country Day School is hosting Patti Wood to speak in February to our school's faculty, parents and students...)

The Rye Committee Plan includes Outreach (like ours!).

- Contacting other committees
- Hosting Forums and Expos
- Having the Rye Committee write a monthly column on Sustainability for the Rye Record
- Sara Goddard is also interested in creating a "Southern Westchester Energy Action Committee." She explained that Bedford and other northern towns have banded together, calling themselves the "Northern Westchester Energy Action Committee" and were able to receive some state funding for environmental initiatives. (I would be interested in working with Sara to form this group with her. Also, Sara and I know each other from RCDS. We both have kids there....).
- I brought up the Greenway Bike Path which their Rye committee is eager to work on.

Finally, I asked about the Rye police force. It seems that they do not give tickets for idling. However, their force has several hybrid cars as part of their police fleet.

One of the members of this Rye Sustainability Committee is also part of the Environmental Action Group of Rye. I believe this is the group which has spearheaded many of the early Rye town initiatives, more so than this Sustainability Committee which appears to be just getting started.

I have information on this EAGR as well. I know many of the members and get their emails.... They are re-writing the Rye's tree ordinances which seems like something we might want to tackle....

Addendum #2:

Notes from Michaela Zeuss' (CFTE Co-Chair) meeting with Larchmont CTFE Jan, 2011 - for incorporation in minutes.

1. Deconstruction Sheet:

They are planning to revive their effort around deconstruction. This would help items such as cabinets, Michaela's Notes continued

toilets, sinks, tubs, etc to be saved from the dumpster, hence better for the environment.

They are planning a meeting for local architects and builders to inform and educate. LMCTV and newspaper should help communicate the issue.

2. Bike-able Larchmont:

Safe Routes and Larchmont

Action Plan:

find locations for 6 more available bike racks

share Alta Planning Consultants results for quick fixes to increase walkability to HMX speak to MHS eco club to see if they want to encourage students in younger grades to walk/bike to school. Speak to PD, DPW and Traffic Committee to discuss bike lane possibility

They discussed share-roads vs. bike lanes as shared roads might pose a liability issue. However, Eastchester has shared roads.

3. ICLEI

They are only getting started

4. Website

They are working on "revamping" their website

5. Recycling

They discussed the removal of 18 garbage bins and additional locations for recycling in the Village They haven't yet decided on a specific recycling bin.

6. Event

Instead of an EXPO/Fair this year, they decided on an event with the "Greening our Children" group. The speaker will be Maida Galvez, April 4th. Venue and time to be determined. They planned on working with SEPTA (Special Ed PTA) on this.

Addendum #3:

Current Village Law

§ 326-19 Engine idling prohibited.

A.

No person shall cause or permit the engine of a motor vehicle, other than a legally authorized emergency motor vehicle, to idle for longer than three minutes on Village-owned property while parking, as defined in § 129 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, while standing, as defined in § 145 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, or while stopping, as defined in the Vehicle and Traffic Law, unless the engine is used to operate a loading, unloading or processing device.

B.

When the ambient temperature is in excess of 40° F., no person shall cause or permit the engine of a bus, as defined in § 104 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, to idle while parking, standing or stopping on Village-owned property.

CITY OF RYE

§ 45-1 Operation of motor vehicle; idling of engine restricted.

A.

No person shall cause or permit the engine of a motor vehicle, other than a legally authorized emergency motor vehicle, to idle for longer than three minutes while parking, as defined in § 129 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, standing, as defined in § 145 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, or stopping, as defined in § 147 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, unless the engine is used to operate a loading, unloading or processing device.

B.

When the ambient temperature is in excess of 40° F., no person shall cause or permit the engine of a bus, as defined in § 104 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, to idle while parking, standing or stopping.

C.

Violators of this chapter may be issued appearance tickets by police officers of the City of Rye. Such tickets shall be returnable in Rye City Court.

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEES (as of 1/18/2011)

ROSTER:

CLIMATE CHANGE

Cathy Hiller

COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING WEBSITE)

Joan Heilman

Cathy Hiller

Ann Breen Metcalf

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sarah Evens (CTFE Co-Chair)

Kate Hearst

Michaela Zeuss (CTFE Co-Chair)

ICLEI ENERGY AUDIT

Jean Peron

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Monica Barach

Joan Heilman

Ann Breen Metcalfe

TRANSPORTATION

Kate Hearst (Greenway Bike Path)

Katherine Kaneko

Ann Breen Metcalfe

Michaela Zeuss (CTFE Co-Chair)

Phil Horner to be determined

LIAISON TO VILLAGE BOARD: Toni Ryan