

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

Present: Sarah Evans, Michaela Zeuss, Philip Horner, Ann Metcalfe, Cathy Hiller, Jean Peron, Monica Barach.

Excused Absence: Kathy Kanecko, Kate Hearst, Joan Heilman, Toni Ryan (Liaison)

Guest: Sarah Robertson, VOM Tree Committee Member.

The Co-chairs welcomed Sarah Robertson to our meeting. She spoke about a tree-planting ceremony on Clean-Up Day, April 30. She said they will plant two trees on that day, one at the Pavilion at H.I. The Tree Committee will provide protection for the young trees. The Tree Committee is purchasing a large amount of trees for general plantings in the Village.

Sarah Evans described the plan used in previous years: start cleaning at H.I at 9:30 am. stop for refreshments, plant trees, listen to the addresses of poet laureate and mayor, pick up any equipment and disperse to assigned clean-up areas. This year, St. John's Episcopal Church group will help. River cleanups will be done by the Flood Committee. All persons and groups involved will be contacted.

Sarah R. described the mission of the Tree Committee: keeps a list of approved trees, order trees and oversees plantings.

Michaela said that she would like the Tree Committee to work closely with our Committee.

The Co-chairs thanked Sarah R for coming to talk to us.

Agenda:

Minutes of February meeting were approved.

Recycling – no report

Climate and Communication – no report

Website – a student has volunteered to help redesign our website.

Michaela said we could use the sign-up on the website as an email distribution list for news, etc. (Other website items follow.)

Transportation – no report.

ICLEI – the energy subcommittee has met and discussed a plan of action. Following the ICLEI guidelines, it will issue a report when further data is collected, and decide on which emissions to target to target. It will meet approximately every two weeks.

Anti-Idling Law – the BOT has passed this law. Ann would like to thank Toni Ryan and the Mayor for their support. The law provides vehicles may idle for three minutes. There are exceptions and limitations to the law. Ann and Joan will edit Larchmont's brochure to conform to our law. It will be handed out to

public. Included in the verbiage of the brochure should be an advisory explaining that modern cars are not harmed by frequent startups.

Tax on Plastic Bags – please refer to notes by Kate at end of these minutes. Monica and Kate will look into legalities regarding provisions of local and State laws on this subject. The Wainwright House will have a program on Plastic Bags. Monica found a newspaper article regarding a plastic bag tax bill now up for debate in the Connecticut government. They are having public hearings on the matter.

Green Week – April 29 to May 6 – our committee will approach merchants for their support and donations. Kate will be asked to request a donation from MacDonald's as was done in previous years.

Farmers Market – a film on shade-grow coffee will be shown at Farmer's Market on May 14, as will a composting film will also be shown. There will not be a summer Farmer's Market this year.

Rye Environmental Forum – March 31 will be put on our website.

Larchmont forum on Children's Health – talk by Dr. Maida Malvez will be put on our Website. Michaela has asked Rye Neck Schools to co-sponsor the Forum and at time of meeting had not gotten a response. (Note: since the meeting Rye Neck Michaela said they will not be co-sponsoring due to insurance issues.).

Local Water Revitalization Program Meeting– attended by Phil and Jean. Phil reported that this will be an important document to set policies regarding the waterfront, such as governance, legal authority, zoning legislation, revisions to 1984 prior report, etc. It will act as guidelines for the future of the waterfront for the BOT to refer to when making decisions. At this time two alternatives plans were presented. One would give jurisdiction to HCZM (Harbor and Coastal Zone Management), the other would give both HCZM as well as the Planning Board jurisdiction. The committee is composed of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and members of the HCZM, Flood Mitigation Committee, Planning Board, Zoning Board and Board of Architectural Review. The entire report is on the VOM website. The issue of enlarging the scope of the committee, as well as the unacceptability of either alternative was raised by citizens. Sarah is going to follow up with Toni to determine if the LWRP Committee make up has changed and whether our committee should be involved. Phil said these are issues that should be clarified.

Harbor Island Street Fair – June 5th. Cathy will apply for a table for us. A handout defining our goals and achievements will be available. We need a way to attract children to come visit our table.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Peron

Next Meeting April 12, 2011

Addendum 1

Sarah

I imagine we would love to co-host the viewing of "Bag It!" I will bring that up at our next meeting...

Additionally, I had a chance to speak with George Lattimer at a Democratic event in Mamaroneck today. He is very supportive and offered to look into the bill that Suzi O. is supposedly sponsoring to tax plastic bags on the state level. He offered to co-sponsor it, if that is what she needs. He also made a couple of other interesting points.

#1. Connecticut may be different than NY, in that local govts have the power to "ban plastic bags." He thinks that in NYS, local govts do not have the jurisdiction to do this. He suggested we make a push on the state level and the county level.

#2. As a state legislator, George feels that letters to the editors of the local papers are VIP in getting anything passed. We can petition all we want, but letters to the editor are a vital and public way to get legislators to act.

He will be getting back to me after he speaks with Suzi's folks.

I love what the Darien folks are doing - basically, everything they can think of! Seems like a good plan to me!

Best,

Kate Hearst

Addendum 2

Report on conversation with George Lattimer:

I had a chance to speak with George Lattimer at a Democratic event in Mamaroneck about tax on plastic bags. He is very supportive and offered to look into the bill that Suzi O. is supposedly sponsoring to tax plastic bags on the state level. He offered to co-sponsor it, if that is what she needs. He also made a couple of other points.

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> Kate's note: I think I may disagree with George on this.... We need to ask if we can locally enact town ordinances. I believe we can (as we did with the leaf blowing law....).

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> #2. As a state legislator, George feels that letters to the editors of the local papers are VIP in getting anything passed. We can petition all we want, but letters to the editor are a vital and public way to get legislators to act.

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I haven't followed up yet....

Kate