

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2012, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE COURT ROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: Michaela Zeuss, Sarah Evans, Monica Barach, Joan Heilman, Phil Horner, Jean Peron, Cathy Hiller, Ilissa Miller, Liaison to the BOT

ABSENT: Ann Metcalfe, Shonna Keogan, Marc Karell

Minutes of November, 2012 were approved. .

The Committee welcomed our new liaison to the BOT, Ilissa Miller.

Sarah announced the resignation of Ann Breen Metcalfe

Sarah announced the possible addition of a new member, Laura Holbrook – she will check with Laura.

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General: Phil discussed with our new liaison to the BOT, Ilissa Miller, the environmental topics that our Committee has been involved with. (See attached list below from Phil to Ilissa.) Ilissa would like a timeline of our programs and activities.

Subcommittee Reports

Recycling – Nancy Seligson, Supervisor of TOM Board. The question of trash collection frequency was discussed with NS. The Committee voted in favor of reducing the amount of collections to one per week and eliminating backyard pickup. The Committee will focus on the plastic bag issue first then the reduction of weekly trash pickups.

ICLEI Update: Marc could not attend the meeting but sent following email:

”I can finally update you a little on ICLEI. I have spent some time in the last week or so reviewing Ariel Russ' work on 2011 energy usage to compute greenhouse gas emissions. The data is spread out among different spreadsheets, but she did a fine job gathering the usage data for the Village's many buildings (I'm quite surprised how many there are!). I am at the beginning stages of putting together a master spreadsheet of energy usage across the spectrum (electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, gasoline/diesel for transportation, etc.) and compute greenhouse gas emissions. I am focusing on the recent (2011) data. Hopefully, it will be up to date in the next few weeks. Then I have to find the baseline (2006?) data and treat it the same way.”

He further stated that, “I do want to add a follow up note about ICLEI. I have reviewed the 2011 energy usage data and have calculated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to Village activities in 2011. I created a spreadsheet which, I hope, the Village will use year after year to keep track. Enter energy usage data and it automatically calculates GHG emissions. I do have some minor questions and concerns with the completeness and quality of the energy usage data, emphasis on minor. I sent the spreadsheet and my questions to Rich and Dan and to Ariel for her future studies. When the issues are cleared up and the spreadsheet "final", I will work on the baseline (2006) energy use data similarly. Given the Village's switch to more efficient street lighting and

ICLEI continued

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“from No. 2 fuel oil to natural gas to heat most buildings in the intervening years, there is a good chance that alone will result in a decent net decrease in GHG emissions.”

Note: Ariel Russ is an environmental intern who volunteered to do the 2011 audit for ICLEI’s milestone program.

Marc will be writing a blog on proper use of generators for the website and FB.

Community Outreach Facebook (FB) Page: The League of Women Voters has published an initiative for community conservation, “In 2013: Conserve, Save and Donate.” Sarah said the Committee will be supporting LWV’s efforts, which also will coincide with Earth Day. See attachment below. Shonna will report on Facebook Page at a subsequent meeting.

Communications –Rye grass clippings, Larchmont “Bag It” movie: Monica will meet with Sara Goddard of the Rye Sustainability Committee, to discuss grass clippings. Our Committee would like to show the “Bag-It” movie once again if ok with Larchmont.

Water Quality Subcommittee (WQSC) Phil noted the report by Malcolm-Pirnie on the DEC citation of the VOM due to above-normal coliform counts, noting that Halstead Ave outflow has a count that is very much above normal. The VOM will focus on storm sewers and on identifying other that may be problematic. He noted that Dan Sarnoff, Assistant Manager, will be point person and that the VOM has legal wherewithal to remediate. On Sarah’s suggestion, a copy of this report was forwarded to Leah Schmalz, Director of Legislative and Legal Affairs, Save the Sound. Remediation action is required by Jan 31, 2013

M4S – (Municipal Storm Water Sanitary Sewer System) – The EPA requires that under this provision, there is a requirement of public input. Our committee helps satisfy that requirement by the community cleanups and by the issuing of a citizen survey that is now being worked on. (It should be noted that the TOM has already done a survey.) We are also establishing a website for input, education of the community and reporting by the community any blockages in the streams that may be slowing down the water flow.

Old Business:

CTFE terms/openings/election/Ann Metcalfe: The two co-chairs will remain. Below is a listing of members titles and their terms of service. Trustee Miller is liaison to the BOT

CTFE terms/openings: (continued)

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Name	Title	Term
Joan Heilman		December 2015
Open		December 2015
Marc Karell		December 2015
Sarah Robbins Evans	Co-Chair	December 2013
Laura Holbrook		December 2013
Shonna Keogan		December 2013
Catherine Hiller		December 2013
Monica Barach		December 2013
Michaela Zeuss	Co-Chair	December 2014
Phil Horner		December 2014
Jean Peron		December 2014

Plastic Bag Education: Education is an important issue at the time of the new law banning plastic bags which will become effective in March, 2013. There will be mass emails, signs posted and a film. Use of recycle bags will be a key factor in public education. Illisa would like briefings on our education initiatives.

Generators/Village disaster Plan: See ICLEI above.

New Business:

Logo CFTE (Amanda Schlumberger) Michaela spoke about the design of the recycle bag logo. A graphic designer will oversee the redesign of the bags with the help of MHS student who worked on original design. The bags will eventually be distributed at shops and the library. Illisa would like to help suggest where the bags will be distributed. Michaela will contact the COC after the holidays.

Jewish Environmentalism: There will be an Environmental Fair on Sunday, January 27 between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Westchester Jewish Center (Rockland and Palmer Avenues). Many vendors will be there to offer advice on what people can do to be greener, save money and improve their family's health at the same time. Everyone is welcome to come.

Items not on the agenda: None

Respectfully submitted: Jean Peron

Next Meeting January 15, 2013 – **REMINDER: NEW MEETING TIME IS 7:30**

Note: See attachments below

MAMARONECK VILLAGE

Local Environmental Issues Outline

The Committee For The Environment (CFTE), a Village sponsored citizens advisory group, follows developments in the world of environmental issues and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees for local actions.

WATER QUALITY

General Situation: Village rivers, streams and L I Sound shorefront have pollution issues.

Recent Developments: Federal EPA citation of Village and surrounding towns. Beach closings.

Concerns: Improving sanitary and storm sewers. Addressing flooding issues and their environment impact.

RECYCLING PROGRAM

General Situation: DPW carries out the various collections in the Village

Recent Developments: County cancels hazardous waste collections.

Concerns: Hazardous waste disposal gap. Composting issues

GEEENHOUSE GASES & AIR POLLUTION

General Situation: Village joined ICLEI (municipal coordinating group). 2008 Resolution to be "green" leader

Recent Developments: Completed greenhouse gases inventory, set reductions goal in line with County.

Concerns: Need renewed commitment to action plan, and measurement program.

LOCAL LAWS

General Situation: CFTE has promoted ordinances adopted by the Board

Recent Developments: Leaf Blower Law, Ban-plastic shopping bags, Anti-idling Law

Concerns: Implementing plastic bag law. Enforcing leaf blower and idling.

LWRP –Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan

General Situation: Update of 1984 Waterfront Plan required by NYS

Recent Developments: Local advisory group conducted public input sessions. Consultants wrote new draft.

Concerns: Process lagging, year behind schedule.

PUBLIC EDUCATION – BEST PRACTICES

General Situation: EPA "M-4S" Plan and Reports on storm water promises many good actions by Village

Recent Developments: CFTE Water Quality Sub-Committee formed to monitor and promote community actions

Major Concerns: Need to build programs to spread information and ask for community participation.

**The Larchmont/Mamaroneck League of Women Voters
Community Conservation Civics Initiative**

In 2013: Conserve, Save and Donate.

The Larchmont/Mamaroneck League of Women Voters, consistent with its mission of public education and advocacy, will usher in 2013 with a year-long, community-wide conservation civics initiative, the goal of which is intended to use civic engagement as a road to a more sustainable community; one that will help ease the fiscal and environmental climate challenges we currently face.

An energy system upgrade at the Town of Mamaroneck owned Hommocks Ice Rink is needed to reduce maintenance costs and energy use at the Town's current biggest energy consumer. When you conserve in your own daily activities, save and participate in this initiative as outlined below, it will help to rejuvenate the Hommocks Ice Rink while also allowing us to stretch our Town's tax dollars.

The LWV Civics Initiative aims to engage students, families, local businesses and houses of worship in learning how to shape activities of daily living to conserve energy/food consumption and save money; and also create energy saving solutions which we can share with one another. With Town tax hikes ahead to preserve services we rely on, a need to replenish the depleted maintenance reserves used for super storm Sandy clean-up, the Town's \$325,000 share of rehabilitating an ancient water pipe that routes water from the Larchmont Reservoir to the Town and Village of Mamaroneck, and the overall need to upgrade our municipal buildings to make them more energy efficient, local government is stretched to the max. By conserving what we use and throw away, first, we can reduce the sizable part of our tax bill which pays for waste pick-up. Second, through hands-on public-participation in the programs listed below, we, as a community, can translate our savings from conserving what we consume to help raise funds for the 2014 energy upgrade of The Hommocks Ice Rink. While the upgrades will occur without this League initiative, with simple shifts in activities of daily living, such as transportation, food consumption, indoor heating, cooling and lighting, all members of our community and the community itself can benefit.

How will this League of Women Voters Conservation Initiative work?

Part I: Beginning in January 2013, audit what you consume; then, throughout the year, conserve on consumption of gas, heat, hot water, electricity and food. Please keep track, in a journal, where you save on greenhouse gas emissions and money.*

The League will collaborate with the environmental committees in our community and other organizations which can help make this initiative a success. We welcome and look forward to student involvement. Throughout the year, the League will provide through the media useful strategies on energy conservation. We will also have a facebook page devoted to sharing strategies we learn of through our own research and those which you find successful and share with us.

Part II: Saturday-April 20, 2013, participate in a Silent Auction offering for sale residents' donated unused gifts; and attend a Trashion Show featuring local students and elected officials modeling outfits made of recycled materials; and *

Part III: Sunday April 21, 2013, participate in, and shop at, a Community Yard Sale.*

***On a purely voluntary basis, residents can benefit our community by donating to the Town of Mamaroneck- Hommocks Ice Rink Trust Fund (the "Hommocks Trust Fund") all or a portion of the money saved through personal conservation efforts. In addition, 100% of the proceeds**

from the silent auction and trashion show ticket sales will be donated to the Hommocks Trust Fund; and a \$25 fee to rent a space for the Community Yard sale also will be donated to the Hommocks Trust Fund. Donations (by check) should be made payable to the: **Town of Mamaroneck-Hommocks Ice Rink Trust Fund** and mailed to Town Administrator, Steve Altieri at the Town Center. The effect of our community-wide participation to *conserve, save and donate* will be to free up tax dollars and other Town revenue which would have funded the cost of the Hommocks Ice Rink energy upgrade, so those other funds can be applied toward recurring Town budget obligations, such as rainy day reserves, maintenance and repairs; and services. This will alleviate some of the pressure contributing to additional tax increases. Every person makes a difference here at the local level. The Larchmont/Mamaroneck League of Women Voters looks forward to a year of collaboration with environmental specialists to help educate our entire community as to how to conserve, cut costs at home and fortify our community for a climate healthy future. Thank you for traveling with us on this road toward sustainability.

Conservation Tips for your Pocketbook and the Climate:

1. Calculate your carbon footprint: <http://www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/index.htm>
2. Perform your own Home Energy Audit: <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/do-it>

<http://www.energystar.gov> <http://thedailygreen.com>

3. Arrange for a Professional Energy Audit: NYSERDA, for example. www.nyserda.ny.gov
4. Temperature: Detect air leaks. Caulk and weather strip. Properly ventilate. Insulate. Inspect and clean heating and cooling equipment. Turn the thermostat down in winter. Use ceiling fans.
5. Lighting/Electricity: Review electrical bills for trends and spikes. Switch to sunlight; and energy efficient light bulbs (compact fluorescent and light emitting diode (LED)). Purchase Energy Star Appliances; especially the refrigerator, air conditioner, and washer/dryer. Clean coils and adjust temperature on appliances per company directions. Use a power strip for all plug-in equipment and turn it off at the end of the day.
6. Laundry: Reduce the number of loads per week. Wash with cold or warm water. Use concentrated liquid soap. Line dry (at least until clothes are mostly dry).
7. Limit hot water use, generally: Use the dishwasher and laundry only with a full load. Consider purchasing an energy efficient water heater; and keep the temperature down. Install low flow showerheads.
8. Food Consumption: Limit meat and dairy; and increase or replace with vegetables, fruit and grain. Avoid purchasing perishable food in bulk if it will spoil before you can eat it. Serve smaller portions and eat leftovers. Grow your own food without using pesticides.
9. Lawn Care: Use a rake instead of a leaf blower. Trade a gasoline powered mower for a cordless electric mower. For a workout, use a manual mower.
10. Transportation: Drive less; carpool, consolidate shopping trips, ride a bicycle, take public transportation and walk more. To maintain your car's efficiency, keep the tires properly inflated; drive at the speed limit (55 mph is optimal); and when it is time for a new car, purchase a hybrid or go electric.
11. In general, reduce what you consume, recycle and reuse. Buy products with minimal packaging. Bring your own reusable bag. Recycle, paper, plastic, newspaper, glass and aluminum cans.

For more information, please contact the Larchmont/Mamaroneck LWV president, Elisabeth Radow enradow@gmail.com Thank you.