

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2012 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: Michaela Zeuss, Jean Peron, Phil Horner, Monica Barach, Cathy Hiller, Joan Heilman, Marc Karell,

ABSENT: Ann Metcalfe, Sarah Evens, Shonna Keogan, Toni Ryan (Liaison)

The minutes of December 20, 2011 were approved

Subcommittee Reports:

Recycling Committee: Phil said that the periodic collection at Valhalla of household, medical and hazardous waste does not realistically encourage participation from public. As yet he has not gotten a response to his letter to Richard Slingerland, Village Manager regarding disposal of hazardous waste. He will follow up to determine what can be done to collect it locally. Joan said she hasn't gotten a response to her letter regarding the poor condition of the VOM Recycling Center. She will follow up.

Bicycle Regulations in Municipal Codes: Ann researched the existing laws in various communities and suggests that our law seems to be quite substantial comparatively.

Communications: The website is up-to-date at this time.

Community Outreach: See New Business below.

Energy Audit: Update of meeting with RS – Marc and Phil. Topics discussed at meeting:

- »A second “veggie truck” is being considered, but biodiesel has become hard to find.
- »Traffic lights have been converted to LEDs, street lights to be converted to LEDs in a year or so.
- »Ancillary vehicles – will be replaced with Prius hybrids instead of the high-emission Crown Victorias now in place.
- »PEOs' cars will be replaced by scooters.
- »Buildings: Three firehouses have been converted to natural gas and two more are in the conversion process. The Stanley Ave Counseling Center and Mount Pleasant Avenue courtroom are scheduled for conversion to natural gas in 2013
- »Light bulbs: The replacement of T12 (4-ft. fluorescent bulbs) with T8s is almost complete. **

Energy Audit – Subcommittee meeting with RS continued. .

- »Roof Gardens: RS expressed an interest in researching roof gardens.
- » Electric Charging Station: New Castle has an electric charging station and a similar station in the VOM can be a possible money-maker.
- »Purchasing Policy: Marc suggested VOM institute a policy of purchasing only Energy Star products

(i.e. laptops, printers refrigerators, etc.). While these products cost slightly more than equivalent non-Energy-Star counterparts, they save energy (mostly electricity) costs in the long run. As it stands now, each department make purchases according to its own policies. Given a limiting budget in any given year, a department is tempted to buy the cheaper, less energy-efficient brand.

The Energy Subcommittee will meet with RS every few months.

The Committee suggested that perhaps the employees at Village Hall who deal with these data would be able to set aside the information needed to determine energy usage. Jean will check with Toni and if okay will create a spreadsheet with our requirements.

“Green Screen” Film Festival: Cathy has been coordinating the festival and reported that collectively, \$1800 has been collected from various groups, which is enough to go forward. A listing of films, dates, etc., is attached to these minutes. She says more mailing lists are needed, Marc said he will post information about the film festival in local/regional environmental group websites. She said donations for refreshments are needed. Jean will ask for a donation of cookies from Boiano’s Bakery. Larchmont Sustainability Committee will coordinate the Larchmont refreshments.

It was resolved that Cathy will purchase “glass” wine glasses for the Committee to keep for use at future programs, if the use of glass is acceptable to the venues involved.

Marc advised that the two websites listed below be visited for more green ideas:

GreenGuruNetwork.com - a website developed by a local woman for sharing sustainable ideas, finding useful resources and building green community.

Westchester Green Business Challenge – is a clearinghouse for Westchester County business to register and receive education on energy efficiency and sustainability, and to see the business benefits of each spearheaded by the County.”

New Business

Plastic Bag Law – Monica and Michaela will consult with Rye and Mamaroneck Cof C and possibly Jonathan Cunitz of Westport, CT., and will circulate a petition to the TOM and VOM to change the Village code to ban plastic bags. Petitions will also be handed out the film festival. Joan will find out what Westchester County is doing in this regard.

No Idling Day – April 23 is the proposed date for the spring No Idling Day. Rye Neck and Mamaroneck Avenue School, as well and the PD are in favor of it. It should be a large event. Rye and Larchmont will be involved as well.

LWRP - No actions taken as yet.

Water Quality – Michaela will email the CTFE to ask all members interested in joining the Water Quality Subcommittee to reply to her and set up an informal meeting to set priorities.

Plan to coordinate with the TOM on plastic bag ban – see above.

Farmer’s Market – communication? – The Committee decided that our advertising the dates and times of the Farmer’s Market will all we will be doing at this point.

Next Meeting: TBD

****** A standard 4 lamp fixture, similar to what most every office in America uses, has a standard 40 watt T12 lamp on a standard magnetic ballast (which won't be produced after June of 2010) and uses 172 watts of energy. The same fixture retrofitted with T8 lamps and a new electronic ballast uses 112 watts of energy – **that's a 35% reduction in energy usage!** To retrofit an existing fixture with the new ballasts is a process that requires a trained electrician, but worth that cost based on the cost-savings wiring.

Note attachment to minutes below.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Peron



Presented by the Village of Larchmont and the Village and Town of Mamaroneck

Saturday March 3, 10 am: **THE LORAX**: New Disney Feature Film at Larchmont Clearview Theater. Free tree seedlings courtesy of Con Ed.

Saturday, March 3rd at **Mamaroneck Library**, 2 pm: **BAG IT**. Speaker: Sara Goddard, chair of the City of Rye Sustainability Committee, which passed the first retail shopping bag ordinance in Westchester County. Bring in the most clean plastic bags for the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force and win a prize.

Sunday, March 4th at the **Village Center** (beside the Larchmont Library), 2 pm: **FRESH**. Speaker: **FRESH** Director Ana Sofia Joanes. Community picnic to follow.

Monday, March 5th, at **Mamaroneck Town Center** (Conference Room C), 7:30 pm: **NO IMPACT MAN**. Speaker: **NO IMPACT MAN** Co-Director Justin Schein.

Saturday, March 10th at **Mamaroneck Library** DOUBLE BILL:
1 pm: **EXTREME ICE**. NOVA, A National Geographic television special
2 pm **FLOW**: For the Love of Water.

Sunday, March 11th at the **Village Center** (beside the Larchmont Library), 2 pm: **GASLAND**. On fracking. Speaker: Paul Gallay, President, Riverkeeper.

Monday, March 12 at Mamaroneck Town Center (Conference Room C), 7:30 pm: **CARBON NATION**. Speaker: George Klein, chair, Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group

*There will be refreshments at all screenings except **THE LORAX**.
All events except **THE LORAX** are free.
Tickets to **THE LORAX** are \$5 for adults and children;
Please preregister for this film at <http://greenscreenlorax.eventbrite.com>*

Supporters: Friends of the Larchmont Library, Green Mountain Energy, Gerald & Marlene Kolbert, Murphy Brothers Contracting, Diane Neff Architect PLLC, Wine Gems.
Friends: At Home on the Sound, Enopi Learning Center, Ink It Up Printers, Judy Myers, Larchmont Library, Larchmont Garden Club, League of Women Voters, Mamaroneck Library, Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce, Sheldrake Environmental Center, Trader Joe's.
<http://web.me.com/jlsteinmetz1>