

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2012, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE CONFERENCE ROOM, 123 MAMARONECK AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: Michaela Zeuss, Sarah Evans, Monica Barach, Joan Heilman, Phil Horner, Jean Peron, Marc Karell, Cathy Hiller, Shonna Keogan, Toni Ryan, Liaison to BOT

ABSENT: Ann Metcalfe

Minutes of October, 2012 were approved.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

**Recycling –CFL light bulbs and recycling/article/Regatta Recycling:** Joan wrote an article regarding recycling of CFLs. Shonna has submitted it to the *Sound and Town*. An article on the plastic bag ban will be written in January. Jean will continue to monitor the Regatta recycling area. Jean reported that nine unused printer cartridges were saved from the trash and given to Staples for proper recycling. Phil will re-visit the mixing of organic trash with household trash issue which happened this past summer by DPW. Books: a question came up of how to recycle books – they cannot be put in the paper recycling and should be donated to libraries or the Veterans of Vietnam who will take most unwanted items, including books.

**ICLEI Energy Milestones:** Marc will check the ICLEI software to determine the differences between the 2005 energy figures and the results of the recent study by the intern. The next step is creating a plan to go forward.

**Community Outreach -** Outdoor play by school children. The YMCA and Rye Nature Center have initiated a meeting to discuss organizing outdoor play so that children have more time to play outdoors. Sarah said she agrees that children should play outdoors more often but that it is a school issue and not an issue for the CFTE. However, the CFTE can filter details as they arise and support the effort.

**Communications:** Michaela said Cathy's idea of sharing minutes is a good one and she shared the VOM CFTE minutes with the equivalent committees of Larchmont, Town of Mamk and Rye.

**Water Quality Sub Committee (WQSC):** The Marine Educational Center at Harbor Island is still in the embryonic stage and there is nothing to do at this time. Phil reported that NYS is doing a WQ audit. A second testing was to be done by consultants but was delayed by the hurricane and nor'easter. Phil is not sure of what has been done as yet, and feels the November report may be delayed.

### **Old Business:**

**LWRP:** Phil said there is nothing to report.

**Plastic Bag Ordinance –** March 4 will be the date the Plastic Bag Ordinance becomes effective. Michaela sent an email to Rich Slingerland, Village Manager, on educating the public. The Plastic Bag design is in progress. Shonna will talk to the designer for the logo for our Committee and the new bag.

**EPA findings –** nothing to report.

**Plastic Bag Film Update:** Monica said that this is still in the idea stage.

**Water Quality Task Force with Citizen Alert Component:** Phil will consult with Dan Sarnoff, Assistant Village Manager, to come up with a plan to involve the community.

**Question about Hazardous Waste and Working with the County:** Monica said we should ask the County to share with the VOM the status of gas station inspections and violations. Monica will follow up with RS and County.

**Facebook Page:** Shonna said the Facebook (FB) structure is now in place. All members of the committee should send environmentally-related photos to Shonna to be placed on the web.. Shonna and Michaela will monitor FB.

**CFTE terms/openings:** The terms of the CFTE members were discussed and Sarah and Michaela also said we still have one opening.

**Mulching of grass clippings event with Rye/Larchmont:** Monica met with Rye Sustainability Committee's Sara Goddard to see a sample of grass mulching. She said she would like to work with us to combine efforts on this issue. Monica would like to have a film on grass mulching to raise awareness.

**Tree Maintenance and Storms:** There is some concern that healthy trees will be cut to avoid their falling during storms. The consensus was that there is not much the CFTE can do to stop this.

**Re-Showing of the "Bag It" Movie:** Larchmont's environment committee wants to re-show "Bag It" in or about March, 2013. The CFTE might show it again as well in support of Larchmont.

**Farewell and Thank You to Toni:** This is the last meeting for Toni Ryan, Liaison to the BOT. We all wished her a fond farewell and a heartfelt thank you. She was presented with a gift from the Committee.

**Items not on the Agenda:** Solar Panels (SP). Marc reported that a SP company that has worked on his home, OnForce Solar, would like to pair with municipalities to promote installation of SPs and in return may give an SP to that muni at no charge. This is happening in Massachusetts by a company "Solarize Massachusetts" who does the same quite successfully.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Peron

Next Meeting December 17, 2012 – **REMINDER: NEW MEETING TIME IS 7:30**