

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2013, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE REGATTA, 123 MAMARONECK AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

**PRESENT:** Sarah Evans, Cathy Hiller, Monica Barach, Laura Holbrook, Phil Horner, Jean Peron, Katy McManus, Jillian Ammerman

**ABSENT:** Joan Heilman, Marc Karel, Shonna Keogan , Ilissa Miller, Liaison to BOT  
Visitor: Richard Slingerland, Village Manager (RS)

Minutes of October, 2013 meeting were approved.

## **Recycling Updates**

### **Getting to zero waste:**

Monica went to a sustainability meeting. Following are the takeaways:

- ▶ A survey of businesses' composting policies should be taken
- ▶ Starting with restaurants, businesses should compost.
- ▶ Abolish all leaf collections.

RS said the Village is revamping our garbage collection and will have a meeting with businesses. Monica will attend. He also discussed the possibility of bagging leaves instead of raking them loose to curbside. Monica will study and report in January. Having more recycling bins to encourage downtown recycling is being considered. More recycling cans are needed - co-mingled only, not for paper. Cost of a sturdy bin is \$800 (approx) – he suggested buying five bins per year. Perhaps the CFTE can purchase some (or all) for the Village.

**Recycling at the Regatta:** Cathy will manage the next recycling pickup from the items collected at the Regatta.

**Carbon Footprint (formerly ICLEI)** – the new baseline for this audit is 2008, as discussed at last meeting. The 2011 audit is finished. RS said street light luminaries are big consumers of energy and a change to LEDs will lead to less consumption.

**Water Quality:** Phil gave an outline of the WQ Team's priorities, saying we can take credit for many achievements:

- ▶ Water testing is highest priority
- ▶ Beach testing of Harbor and Rivers
- ▶ Citizen activists' testing
- ▶ A warm-weather project – what is next phase for ARCADIS
- ▶ A work session to have experts from Westchester County interpret WQ data to WQ team. He will follow up on this.
- ▶ Webpage – change the level of pages showing more links.
- ▶ Catch Basins – too much nitrogen from too many leaves. He will follow up.

RS gave a report on the Jefferson Avenue Bridge: There are possible sewage leaks (sewage dissipates after three days). Dan Natchez, President of Dan S. Natchez and Associates, Inc. and Stuart Teikert investigated possible leaks causing continuing problems. (Phil said sewage complaints have been fixed.) RS said ARCADIS has been approved for further testing. No evidence of sewage after pipe was repaired, pointing to other sources of sewage which may be contributing to the continuing sewage leaks. Regarding runoff, RS will talk to Ilissa regarding an experimental area of permeable surfaces.

**Communications/Solar Panels:** The CTFE wrote a letter to the BOAR supporting positioning solar panels to get the most solar benefit, so far there has not been a response.

**Continuing Business:**

Air quality: Katy said nothing to report yet. Laura said that informing taxi drivers, Police Chief and those in charge of Village vehicles regarding our “No Idling” law may help them to be aware the law and reasoning behind it. Rich said he would ask the police to enforce the law.

**Oysters and Citizen Scientists:** Sarah said the next step is to make an appointment with Sandy Shumway, Marine Scientist, University of Connecticut, to plan the feasibility of growing oysters in the Sound. A demo would be acceptable to RS. It would be a trial project for the summer.

**Environmental Officer:** A grant writer is very expensive and may not be worthwhile. RS will reach out to Steve Otis, NY Assemblyman, and George Latimer, State Senator and to available grants and what is required. He will also reach out to the TOM sustainability office and report back to us.

**Water Quality Forum:** Cathy has submitted the following notes for the upcoming spring forum:

“Water Quality Forum

“Earth Day Weekend: Saturday or Sunday (Date?)”

Different speakers talking about various aspects of water quality to help people understand the issues.

Community Room at Mamaroneck Library.

People give timed presentations. All questions at the end.

Some possible speakers and subjects:

Kathryn Desmond: history of water quality in Mamaroneck, etc.

From our WQ Committee: An update on WQ in Mamaroneck

From the village: What can the average person do to help improve WQ?

Save the Sound Representative: Leah Schmaltz?

Riverkeeper: actions that get results! A clean Hudson River”

“Also, possibly:

Harbor Master: Has the water in the Harbor changed?

Director of the Sewage Treatment Plant: What goes on in the unmarked building with the tower?”

Jillian suggested to have a week of “green” events, e.g. a tour of sewer treatment plant. Laura said we may be able to get school groups involved.

**New Business:**

Seaweed farming- Since seaweed also filters nitrogen (as do oysters), the feasibility of growing seaweed should be discussed after the oyster study.

**Name of Committee-- What are our initials?** The official initials of this committee is “CFTE”

**Presence at BOT meetings:** A committee member should be present at BOT meetings when an environmentally relevant item is on the agenda and report back to the Committee. A copy of the agenda should be sent to the Chairperson(s).

**Call for new Committee Chairs – December elections:** As there will be vacancies after the new year, the Committee should be thinking of who will fill vacant positions.

**Items Not on the Agenda:**

Tree Grants: RS has asked for letters to be sent to the DEC c/o Village Manager in support of Tree Management and Maintenance grants.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Peron

Next Meeting: December 17, 2013