

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF  
DECEMBER 17, 2013, AT 7:30 P.M. AT COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVE  
MAMARONECK, NY 10543

**PRESENT:** Sarah Evans, Cathy Hiller, Monica Barach, Joan Heilman, Phil  
Horner, Jean Peron, Marc Karell

**ABSENT:** Jilian Ammerman, Laura Holbrook, Shonna Keogan, Katy  
McManus, Ilissa Miller, Liaison to BOT

Minutes of November, 2013 meeting were approved.

### **Recycling Updates**

Joan reported that the Recycling Brochure with inserts will be mailed soon.

### **Zero Waste:** Nothing to Report

**Carbon Footprint /Air Quality)** – Marc said the new baseline for this audit is 2008. There have been many significant changes between 2008 and 2011. The intern may have it done in the next few months. Further emission reductions will be done by street lighting changes to LED bulbs – approximately 4000 lights. (LEDs give more lumens for less wattage.) The payback will be one or two years. After two years, there will be a savings. Internal building lights may also be changed. Marc noted that Richard Slingerland (Village Manager-“RS”) is considering a new type of insulation that absorbs heat in summer months, which has a cooling effect, and emits the stored heat in winter months. The VOM Municipal Building (Mt. Pleasant Ave) will be a trial building, if the VOM agrees to go forward on this project.

**Water Quality “WQ”:** Phil reported there has been no WQ team meeting for awhile. The team will focus on getting explanation of the testing data from Arcadia engineers. The EPA quarterly reports were due November 28. The BOT approved \$90K for next phase of Arcadia project. They will meet with Save the Sound. The Mayor supports their efforts to use citizen with volunteers for testing and reporting. The WQ web page has added an index page which lists the WQ reporting page as well as test results. The EPA is working on excessive water in storm sewers. Any excess water in storm sewers is discharged untreated into our rivers, streams and ultimately the LIS. Leakage from cracks in the sanitary sewer pipes also spills into the

storm sewers. The EPA can issue fines when pipes are not improved. There are 27 storm sewers which will be replaced. Barry Ave was recently completed. Our water treatment plant has a capacity of 30 million gallons; storms may increase that amount. The MS4 regulation deals with storm water – not sanitary pipes.

**Outreach:** Sarah and Jean went to the GASLAND II viewing at the Larchmont Library.

**Communication:** No report.

**Continuing Business:**

**Solar Panels** – recent article – BAR vs. CFTE/Aesthetics vs. sustainability  
The BOT will submit a statement in support of solar panels.

**Oysters and Citizen Scientists:** Kathy Desmond applied for a permit for the testing of 30 oysters from our harbor. Sarah and Jean will work on placing oysters in the Sound water on an experimental basis to determine their affect on nitrogen levels. Citizen Scientists will be trained to test water.

**Environmental Officer:** Cathy interviewed two Sustainability Officers: Andrea Grenadier – a part time sustainability officer with the TOM; and Deb Newborn from New Rochelle. Please see Cathy’s notes below for more details.

**Water Quality Forum:** Laura has suggested getting families more environmentally involved instead of having a Forum. Cathy would like to have a more “traditional” Forum format as well as a children’s event. (Date of event: April 27, 2014)

**Presence at BOT meetings:** Instead of having one of our members present at BOT meetings, Marc said we should ask Ilissa to report back any pertinent environmental BOT discussions to our Committee

**Change in Co-Chairs:** The Committee has unanimously elected two new co-chairs: Marc Karell and Monica Barach. The Committee heartily congratulated them.

Light refreshments were served.

**Outgoing Chairs – remarks:**

Both out going chairs, Sarah Evans and Cathy Hiller made statements concerning the Committee’s accomplishments during their chairmanship:

**Projects of Committee for the Environment** - Sarah Evans

Created **recycling program** and continue to expand it

Funded **bike racks** for village

Organized annual **Clean Up/ Green Up** of parks, neighborhoods and waterways

Proposed and procured **No Idling Law**

Proposed and procured **Leaf Blower Ban**

Proposed and procured **Plastic Bag Ban**

Designed **logo** for reusable bags

Funded **reusable bags**-free to citizens

Started **Winter Farmers Market**

Produced film “*Composting In Mamaroneck*”

Co-Produced **Green Screen Festival**

Created Website **[Mamaroneckgreen.org](http://Mamaroneckgreen.org)**

Provided for **recycling bins** for Mamaroneck Avenue and Harbor island Park

Donated **Kill-a-Watt meters** to Mamaroneck Library

Initiated **Citizen Water Quality Alert Program**

Monitored **ICLEI (Carbon Footprint)** program to reduce carbon footprint

Re-established **Water Quality Committee**

**Cathy Hiller** –It was “exciting for me to lead a self-motivated group. “

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**Items Not on the Agenda:**

The Committee will write a letter of protest the loss of Bob Funicello's Westchester County position of Environmental Project Director.

Publicity for Web: The mamaroneckgreen.org webpage was visited by 940 people in 2013. Jean will write to Ilissa to ask for mention of our website at BOT meeting, on Village newsletters, etc.

New Member: Sarah Richards has been appointed to our Committee.

Welcome Sarah!

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Peron

Next Meeting: January 21, 2014

Cathy Hiller's Notes:

**Sustainability Coordinator**

► Interview with **Andrea Grenadier** November 26, 2013

She's Nancy's assistant as well and spends about 50% of her time on sustainability issues.

She's applied for several national grants, which very competitive. Many for depressed areas upstate NY.

Consolidated Funding Application, CFA , makes it easier

We are in the mid Hudson area for regional economic council: funneling money through NY State then. . .

Working toward a green roof over police station. Also perhaps roof painted white lower ABEDO also plantings

Has RFT out for energy upgrade to the ice rink, Town Center, Firehouse.

Want someone to green building and zoning boards. Low impact development, best practices. Voted by Town Board (4 + Nancy and Town Atty, Town Clerk, Steve Altieri – Town Administrator and his assistant are also there).

Has joined SWEAC, which will soon be called Sustainable Westchester.  
NWEAC a very effective, a 501 c 3 org.

She goes to conferences, such as the PACE annual Conference on Friday, sees webinars.

Doing an emissions inventory with Marc: they noted 2 “mystery meters”

Decrease energy use 10% 2011 and 2012.

From Nina at SWEAC they found Facility Dude , also used by Dobbs Ferry, a commercial co that audits utilities. Recommending to town board.

They also have Liz Paul a Conservation Coordinator: trails, plantings, clean ups, ice rink, booths at fairs. She does their outreach. Town of Mam: 13,000.

Website redesign. Not many email addresses: Recreation biggest at 5-600.

Andrea worked while at College at North Castle, website development. Majored in environmental policy/local govt. Graduated 2012. Initially paid 40,000, now 42,500.

► Interview with **Deb Newborn** New Rochelle December 9, 2013

Sustainability plan and there should be one for Mam Town.

In NR, one person from each dept is the greenie: all together the green team. So court, buildings, highway, assessors’ office, tax office: each dept has someone tasked to look for ways to be greener.

In NR: Sustainability Collaborative: their env committee, 7 or 8 people. Goals, etc. Huge undertaking.

Climate Smart Committees: NY state, compilation of 9 orgs, annual conference, write up a report.

Phone interview with Deborah Newborn, who’s been NR’s sustainability officer for “5 fantastic years.” Also does “outside consultation.” Basic duties: energy efficiency and recycling.” Also put together a massive sustainability report.

Got a grant of \$25,000 for materials for mulching: schools, parks and city, garden club, landscapers: it’s a growing effort. The special blade for lawn mower-mulchers is under \$25, though for gardeners it’s a couple of hundred. Request should come from homeowner!

She says it's important to keep sustainability separate (I guess at first) from reduction of services.

She was paid for 1.5 days a week in NR and did a lot more because she loves it. Worked on grant with Greenburgh Nature Center, ed for county, got it.

There's an Urban sustainability Directors network. Grants good but not necessary.

Key is knowing how to talk to people. Never mention reduction of services or climate change. Talk about saving money.

Can do a lot. She's a part time consultant and her position came about when the Env Action Committee, created by Noam (?), recommended it.

*Note to CFTE: that's how they created her job; we can do it that way too.*

She created a municipal green team, done by the town. MANY THINGS TO DO. Double-sided printing the default option.

Commissioner of development: new buildings and roads

Deborah is a lawyer and can draft legislation.

Sustainable streets, her idea: permeable pavement, vegetation walks, curb areas vegetated. Parking lots perfect place for permeable paving.

Drafting regs for city code to make it easy for energy-efficient use. So can build out beyond perimeter if retrofitting; Solar panels on larger buildings "does not count."

Reducing Con Ed Bill.

Water Quality: needs green infrastructure. Sewage Treatment Plant: huge renovation. Mam?

Problem with biota in Long Island Sound.

What are our priorities? Outreach, money for capital improvement

A performance contract: with Johnson Controls, Honeywell. Company pays for greening, taking a cut over the years, after 8 or so years, benefits to city exclusively. Bond programs: millions, if energy savings are greater than yearly amount, good. They front money. Energy savings in 5-8 years. Cities don't have to lay out any money.

There's lots to do without grants! Cleaning up the house.

She says she's paid by the hour, "I'm cheap" then says \$100/hour.

Best credentials: Yale MA, Columbia Law, env professional her whole life.

Smart taps in parks to fill water bottles completely free "free is my favorite word"

In a nutshell, a sustainability coordinator saves municipality money, saves residents and business money, increases sustainability of the city.