

**PRESENT:** Sarah Evans, Joan Heilman, , Shonna Koegan, Cathy Hiller, Marc Karell, Jean Peron, Katy Mcmanus, Jillian Ammerman, Ilissa Miller, BOT Liaison.

**ABSENT:** Laura Holbrook, Phil Horner, Monica Barach  
Guest: Stuart Tiekert.

Minutes of September, 2013 meeting were approved.

**Recycling Updates** – Joan Heilman – Monica’s request for zero waste polity in the VOM:

Monica sent her thoughts for the Committee to ponder;

“My thoughts for **zero waste** would begin with the hope of encouraging residents to compost their leaves by creating leaf piles on their property, instead of piles on the curb. Even if residents composted 50% of their yard debris, our Village would reap monetary and energy savings. Perhaps the Village can begin by fining residents who disposes (sic) more than 5 feet of yard waste. What are the committee’s thoughts?

“Also, I would like to remind the committee of our discussion to fine residents along with landscapers when they use **leaf blowers** during non-allowable periods. My landscaper has told me that many residents are angry at him when they do not use the blower and as a result the landscaper chances a fine.

“Another note, -when you discuss **water pollution**, please include testing of sites where Dry Cleaners operate, specifically the Dry Cleaner on Harrison and the Post Road. There is a possibility that pollutants spill out into the stream which then flows in to the sound.”

**Recycling – Joan Heilman:** At Rich Slingerland’s (Village Manager) request, the CFTE was asked to come up with ideas for how the Village can increase its percentage of recycled materials. Joan had already suggested translating the Recycling Brochure into Spanish and focusing on areas of the Village where recycling collections are low. RS, Dan Sarnoff (Asst. Village Manager) and Tony Iacovelli (Superintendent DPW) agreed to the Spanish version but Tony said there were no areas where collections are especially poor. No new suggestions were made at the meeting.

Shonna said she converted the “how to recycle almost everything” list into a “quiz” to be distributed to elementary school children. She is looking for a way to use it in the middle schools.

Joan read about a new Westchester County program involving local police departments for the safe collection of medications and drugs that are expired or no longer needed, and sent the information to the Mayor (Rosenblum), Rich and Dan. Called the Medication Take-Back Program, it is already in operation in 21 other WC communities. Police Departments monitor MedReturn Boxes where residents may drop off unwanted over-the-counter and prescription drugs 24/7. The police chief (Leahy) was asked to look into the possibility of our participation. Joan will also do some additional research and report back to the Committee.

**ICLEI progress (emissions audit) – Marc Karell:** Emissions of 2008 will be compared with 2011 emissions. An intern will enter the 2008 data. Marc said that using specific information to describe emission reductions is more meaningful than a general report showing overall reductions. For example: “the use of LEDs reduced emissions by “x” percent. “ Marc said progress is being made.

Ilissa said to encourage those with electric vehicles, perhaps recharging stations for electric vehicles should be made available for public use.

**Outreach:** Cathy attended a Summit meeting on Water Quality (WQ). It was stated that WQ is a very complex problem. Aging infrastructure, illegal sanitary sewer hookups, etc., add to the complexity. She said that the public should be aware of their obligation with respect to sewer/storm pipes. For example: “Is the public aware that the ‘lateral’ pipe extending from the home to the street is the responsibility of the owner?” With regard to repairing infrastructure, RS said the old pipes are being re-lined instead of replaced.

Shonna wants to add photos of previous cleanups, volunteers and especially children, to the website to make it more interesting to the public. There is a second beach cleanup this Sunday. Jillian who coordinated the first beach cleanup will be turning the items found on the beach into an art show. The exhibit will show how birds, turtles and fish can be adversely affected by small particles found along the LIS shores. Shonna will try to get WQ information in the NY Times.

**Water Quality:** Jillian said 22 lbs of debris was found on the first cleanup. She said the art show will demonstrate repurposing of debris found. She is looking for a suitable place to exhibit the display. Sarah suggested the Library as possible venue.

### **Old Business:**

**Clarify focus of the CFTE:** there was a meeting with Ilissa, Cathy, Sarah, Rich and Augie Fusco (Clerk Treasurer) to review the Committee’s mission. Ilissa said the Committee is on the right track and encouraged it to ask for help from the VOM on any projects that the Committee finds which needs to be brought before the BOT. She said the agenda should be posted on the website when possible.

**Review the function of the committee/requirements/visitor policy:** For more details see Chapter 20, ENVIRONMENT, COMMITTEE FOR in the Village Code. Briefly: “The Committee’s mission is to advise and make suggestions to the Village BOT about ways to protect our natural resources...” The Committee is responsible for providing information about environmental concerns to residents ...” Regarding visitor policy, Sarah said that it is the chair who decides if guests should be acknowledged. Ilissa noted that NYCOM has guidebooks for meeting protocol.

**Old Business:**

**Cathy Hiller’s idea for a WQ Forum:** In order to inform and empower the public, Cathy would like to hold a forum using speakers to educate homeowners on using more environmentally friendly practices, e.g. use of pesticides, illegal hookups, etc. with hopes of making them aware of different points of view. She will get back to the BOT when her ideas are more firmed up. Sarah suggested that the WQ forum be refocused on ways to green Mamaroneck by including composting, recycling, etc.

**Solar panels and village codes – letter to the village re: our position:** The BOAR rejected an application for installation of solar panels’ placement on front of a house, which is visible from the street. In Mamaroneck it is subjective as to where to place solar panels; a letter will be sent to the BOAR by the Committee supporting positioning solar panels to get the most solar benefit.

**Drug Prescription Recalls to police station:** See “Recycling” above.

**Promoting permeable surfaces – driveways and parking lots:** Jean informed the Committee on the details of using permeable surfaces: It is a system by which water runoff is percolated down through layers of different sized rocks instead of spilling into the storm drains. As the water passes through the rock, it is purified of many of its pollutants. The drawbacks are the initial expense and need for periodic cleaning. Ilissa will look into having a small, experimental area created in a suitable park location.

**Air quality concerns – linked with water quality alerts? Be more involved with air quality issues? New subcommittee? Does this link with the WQ team or ICLEI issues?** Kathy reported smelling unhealthy odors at various times and asked what can be done to stop them. Marc said there is a rule that such odors cannot go beyond the offending property limits. He said if there are pockets of unhealthy air, there are several agencies that can handle such problems: Westchester County, the DOH, NYS, and DEC. A citizen alert similar to the WQ alert system may be a way to alert the necessary departments.

**Oysters as water filters to clean up LIS.**

Sarah noted that the EPA, using oyster beds, has been successful in cleaning the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. “ A four-year study found that oyster reefs could potentially remove nearly half of nitrogen pollution from that one river on Maryland’s Eastern Shore ‘if you took all the areas suitable for restoration and restored them.’ A wider restoration helped the Chesapeake Bay where the Choptank and other major rivers drain. “ From the Health and Science article of May, 2013 – Washington Post. Sarah will look into bringing a similar program to Mamaroneck Harbor.

**Need for environmental advisor with grant writing skills:** Ilissa said she would ask not-for-profit organizations for the grant-writing talent they use.

**Items not on the agenda**

**No Idling Law:** A large CTFE-owned “No-Idling” poster from a previous year is housed this year at the Mamaroneck Avenue School.

Respectfully submitted:  
Jean Peron

Next Meeting: November 19, 2013