

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF MAY 21, 2013, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE COUR ROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: Monica Barach, Sarah Evans, Joan Heilman, Laura Holbrook, Phil Horner, Katy Mcmanus, Shonna Koegan, Cathy Hiller, Jean Peron

ABSENT: Marc Karell, Illissa Miller, BOT Liaison

Guest: Andres Bermudez Hallstrom, VOM Trustee

Minutes of April, 2013, meeting were approved.

Sarah welcomed Trustee Bermudez

Reports from Subcommittees:

Recycling: Joan and Dan Sarnoff, (DS) Assistant Village Manager, put together a 2013 Recycling Brochure which won a county award. The Committee expressed their congratulations to both. Joan mentioned that NYC is now recycling molded plastics. Phil would like to do some fact finding into VOM sanitation department's possible mixing of organic trash with regular trash instead of keeping it separate.

ICLEI: (energy audit) – nothing to report.

Community Outreach: Mamaroneck's new Marine Education Center (MEC) has been busy with visits from the general public. This June school groups will be visiting it and it will be used by the summer camps this year. It is now opened on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and is targeted for two additional hours per week. (Next year, Mercy College may send student teachers to help. They will be supervised by science teachers).

Communications : Shonna has gotten MEC articles in the Patch, and the Mamaroneck Daily Voice and the "How to Recycle" brochure on LoHud blogs.

Water Quality (MS-4) – Phil reported that the Water Quality Team (WQT) met at the MEC before the Village Clean Up. He discussed the MS-4 audit report regarding storm water. This report is required by the State based on a 2003 plan. The VOM reports on what already has been and what will be done. He said the report has improved from last year. A public hearing was held and the report will be put on the Village website. The WQT will hold a meeting this week. Sarah said the coliform reading at Shore Acres club's little beach are third worst in the State.

Old Business:

Clean-Up-Problem with lack of communication with the VOM Managers.

Laura suggested reorganizing responsibilities for clean up/green up day next year, which could clarify responsibilities and reenergize the campaign. Suggestions might include organizing competition among neighborhood clean-up groups with awards given. Sarah stated that the clean up was not as well coordinated this year- there was a lack of communication between the Village and the CFTE for some tasks; the CFTE was given the impression that the Village would handle them but the Village did not. Hopefully next year there will be clearer communication as to responsibilities of both the Village and the CFTE.

Marine Education Center – opening a success and Saturday openings afterwards: See “Community Outreach” above.

Geese Problem: The VOM is continuing its policy of finding nests and oiling eggs to block oxygen. The machine that picks up goose droppings is run each Friday (weather permitting) and is doing a good job.

New Business

Leaf Blower Ban: the Ban has been translated into Spanish by Trustee Bermudez. See more information on proposed changes to law in Trustee Bermudez’ email below.

Banning use of nitrogen in fertilizer: Trustee Bermudez will check legality of passing a local law banning nitrogen.

Enforcement of Plastic Bag Law and Idling Law and Leaf Blower Ban Law: Sarah suggested that advance planning will help to prepare the various departments in the enforcement of each of these laws.

Water Safety Group: Cameron Okie , Save The Sound, would like to develop a neighborhood water quality sampling program for the summer in Mamaroneck harbor. Several people will work with Sarah regarding water sampling.

Website Management: Michaela will train Shonna and Jean to take over website management as she will be relocating out of Mamaroneck.

Not on agenda:

Cathy suggested creating a dog park and will research having one in Mamaroneck.

Trustee Bermudez would like either to ban smoking in parks or designate an area set aside for smoking.

Laura will take minutes for June meeting in Jean's absence.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Peron

Next Meeting: June 18, 2013

See Trustee Bermudez' email below

Trustee Bermudez' Email dated May 22, 2013:

CFTE Position on changes to the Leaf Blower Law

Last night I met with the Committee for the Environment regarding my proposed changes to the Leaf Blower law. Their position was as follows:

-They suggest changing the law to shift liability for violations to the Property Owner/Occupant and the landscaping company, but not the operator of the leaf blower unless he/she is also the property owner/occupant or landscaper. I concur with this position. There was a question on how a property owner can be cited if they're not home at the time, I was not able to answer that question from a procedure/legal point of view.

- They would like to have the property owner/occupant or landscaper to be given one warning before receiving a ticket, but the Committee (as well as myself) would like to know the mechanism the Police Dept uses for warnings (e.g., are warnings tracked by the PD and checked by Officers who see violations, or is a warning kept by the Officer so that you would only get a ticket if the same Officer sees two violations). I have CC'd Chief Leahy on this e-mail for his input. I also concur with this position if it is feasible and would not impair effective enforcement.

- The Committee also concurs with my suggestion that the dates be struck from the Emergency provision of the law. This would allow DPW to authorize uses of leaf blowers when they would otherwise be prohibited during non-summer storms. The current law only allows to waive DPW to waive the law after a storm during the summer months (when blowers are banned) but not during the rest of the year (when blowers are banned on Sundays). Under the current law if we get a storm on a Saturday in November, allowing the use of blowers on a Sunday would probably require a declaration of emergency and a waiving of the law, instead of a simple statement by DPW.

I would like this e-mail to be added to the backup materials for this Agenda item.

-Andres

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Andres J. Bermudez Hallstrom
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Items not on the agenda: None
Respectfully submitted: Jean Peron

Next Meeting: May 21, 2013