

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF  
APRIL 15, 2014, AT 7 P.M. AT COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVE  
MAMARONECK, NY 10543

**PRESENT:** Cathy Hiller, Monica Barach, Joan Heilman, Phil Horner,  
Katy McManus, Jillian Ammerman, Laura Holbrook, Marc Karell, Sarah  
Richards, Shonna Keogan

**ABSENT:** Ilissa Miller, Liaison to BOT

Minutes of March 18, 2014 meeting were approved.

**Water Quality Forum, May 3, 2014:** Cathy Hiller reported that the schedule and six speakers were finalized and that the final rundown would be distributed to all committee members for approval. Posters have been placed and a room secured at the Public Library. Cathy discussed the merits of having a quiz and some prizes. Blurbs will be sent to the local elementary schools and Shonna agreed to post something on the Patch and Facebook.

**Water Quality EPA Testing** – Phil reported that the EPA program for water quality testing that had been approved in the 2014 budget was kicking off the following week with testing in beaver swamp in Rye Neck (behind the high school). Arcadis is doing the testing. Monica asked whether they would be testing around Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht club and Phil informed us that they were, but elaborated that there were different methods they would be using to find out where the illicit discharge was coming from. He also explained that they're creating a database where they will be recording all the findings from last year and this year, and hope to use it as a tool for future testing.

Phil also clarified that Save the Sound was doing a different type of testing and that they assemble a quarterly report that goes to the EPA, which is then made available to the public.

**Communications:** Phil discussed finding a different place on the website for information regarding water quality, given that the information up on the site is dated. Shonna mentioned that there were login issues with the website and that she would reach out to Rich regarding access.

**Local Waterfront Revitlization Program (LWRP)** – Kathy Desmond had been complaining about the reduction in policies – from 42 to 13 – with regard to the LWRP’s water quality criteria. Phil suggested we be involved in the environmental sections of the LWRP to weigh in on setting background policy for our shore community, pertaining to beaches and walls and docks. The LWRP reporter was reported to be in final review, and they want to finish it by the end of the year before it’s sent to federal agencies. Marc concurred that our committee needs and out to be involve in all things regarding the environment.

**Beach Clean Up Day, April 26** – Jillian reported that the schedule was finalized and the signs are all set, with one to be placed up at the Harbor and one in the Rye Neck triangle by the gas station. Flyers were to be picked up from Brewers. Monica and Laura were scheduled to work on the seed planting. Katie was slated to bring egg cartons to the Harbor on the day. Shonna will follow up with Chris at the Mamaroneck Review to ensure it gets in the calendar.

Jillian also mentioned that the Marine Education Center would be reopened at a tree planted at 9 a.m. on Beach Clean Up day

**Recycling** – Joan reported while the recycling center had been cleaned up of late, the bins were not emptied regularly enough and were overflowing, the trailer for the TVs and other electronics in particular. The cubby where the Village committee collects cell phones and cartridges and other stuff requires somebody to take ownership of collecting the cell phones and ink jet cartridges to taking them to Staples, which can be difficult to manage.

Joan also mentioned a place where they take and recycle old stained clothing to sell and dispose and proposed putting a collection box in our recycling center where people will come and put the stuff in and it could get collected at regular intervals. She resolved to look into it and find out if the Village of Larchmont would also be interested.

**Plastic Bags** - Monica mentioned that the town of Hastings was embarking on a bag ban and hoping to tie it in with a Styrofoam ban and suggested Mamaroneck Village consider the same. She resolved to get a copy of the bill proposed by Hastings. Phil mentioned that Catherine Parker was working on doing something countywide regarding Styrofoam and that there

will be a summit at the John Jay Heritage Center on May 10. Marc was planning on attending.

The committee also asked Marc if there were any concerns regarding the enforcement of the plastic bag ban. A&P reportedly no longer uses them., and the use of reusable bags is up, according to local merchants.

**Smart Meters:** Monica brought up the issue that the smart meters distributed by ConEd allegedly give off a large amount of radiation because they send automatic signals. This can be particularly harmful if the meter is by the bedroom. She suggested looking into this issue in greater depth.

**Village Carbon Footprint Report** –Richard had said that this report would be finished in December but completion has been dragging.

**LED Streetlights** - Mark reported that last month there was discussion of putting out an RFP for energy services. A recent survey indicated that if we replaced the street lights with LEDs, the Village electric bill would be reduced considerably since 25% of the village electric bill is generated by street lighting. We await Andres to write the RFP but in the meantime, we may be spending \$175,000 on the delay.

**Permeable Surfaces:** Illyssa sent an email saying Rich has identified a few places where there's a possible go for permeable surfaces. He plans on narrowing it down to one place and still needs to figure out how to measure the success of water drainage at the proposed space. Mark resolved to look into it.

**Composting** - Sarah raised (not on agenda) if we could have a municipal facility for composing and volunteered to spearhead it by educating the community, locating the composting bins and purchasing them.