

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF JUNE 17 , 2014, AT 7:30 P.M. AT COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVE MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: Jillian Ammerman, Monica Barach (Co-Chair), Joan Heilman, Cathy Hiller, Laura Holbrook, , Marc Karell (Co-Chair), Katy McManus, Jean Peron, Sarah Richards
ABSENT: Phil Horner (sent in advance notes), Shonna Keogan, Ilissa Miller, Liaison to BOT

Visitors: Stuart Tiekert (Citizen), Richard Slingerland, Village Manager (RS).

Minutes of June, 2014 meeting approved.

Webpage: Jean met with Dan Sarnoff, Assistant Village Manager (DS), to discuss changes to the website. The Committee decided to ask DS to go ahead with his proposed changes as there were no issues, it was difficult for the Committee to visualize the changes, and the changes could be undone easily if the Committee so decides.

Community Gardens: There are two proposed locations: Florence Park on the grassy area to the left from the Florence Ave. entrance, and Bub Walker Park, Grand St. and Plaza Ave. Gardeners will have designated plots in a fenced-in, secured area. Tentatively, the plan is to use raised beds and rain barrels. No policies have been set in place as yet. RS will ask the Recreation Commission for their support.

Composting, leaf mulching, bagging leaves: RS said mulch mowing and composting can be labor intensive and are not for everyone. He said he needs a vote and recommendation from the CFTE on leaf bagging. The Committee decided it needs more information before it can vote. Sarah will research other communities to find out about their bagging programs.

Recycling: Textiles: (Working with a company that accepts textiles in any condition for recycling.) The Committee decided that this topic be tabled for now. Sarah will ask St. Thomas' Church if they would like to host bins for accepting textiles.

Request to rearrange VOM recycling area to get more space for recycling and to schedule more frequent collections so that stuff isn't overflowing the bins: Joan suggested having larger collections bins for co-mingled items.

Should VOM add Styrofoam to list of banned substances? Phil's notes said that he is in favor of the ban but feels we should study further. The Committee did agree on a ban for food use.

Review of proposed rule regulating leaf blowers: The main environmental reason for banning blowers is the dirt and dust blown into the air creating unhealthy air quality at a level to increase exposure of these pollutants to citizens. The VOM has asked for an amendment to Chapter 254 to allow unregulated leaf-blower use year-round for municipal and school employees, to amend provisions regarding electric leaf blowers, and to amend the list of parties who may receive summonses to include business owners. The Committee would like more input from the Parks

Dept. Superintendent regarding use of blowers for municipal employees. Since electric blowers do not reduce the amount of dust, etc., blown into the air, the Committee agreed they do not make a significant difference in reducing air quality. Inclusion of business owners to receive summons agrees with the intent of the ban.

Carbon Footprint /Air Quality) and Software – The intern had some problems tracking usage in some buildings partially due to ambiguous naming of some buildings, but the carbon footprint should be finished soon. RS will issue an RFP (Request for Proposal) for energy evaluation for traffic and street lights, building energy use pumps, and HVAC air conditioners. Street lights have a great savings potential; evaluation of heavy-duty equipment, e.g. pumping station, should also be made. He is looking to replace windows for old buildings. Two buildings are still using heating oil: 169 Mt. Pleasant Ave and Stanley Ave. **Software:** Marc has suggested Utility Track, a software system to track energy use.

CFTE vote/comments on potential bamboo rule – The running species of bamboo can be a highly invasive because of the aggressive rhizomes it sends out. A new regulation was proposed allowing the planting of running bamboo but with limitations. The Village Attorney is reviewing the regulation, and the Committee will wait for her input.

CFTE vote/comments on sample solar legislation: Marc said the bottom line of this legislation is that no solar panels should be restricted for aesthetic reasons. Also, a smoother permitting process should be part of the legislation. Marc also expressed a concern about the wording that may limit application of solar panels to two-family and larger homes. There is a question of which board should approve PV cell placement, the Planning Board or Zoning Board.

Permeable surfaces – No news to report at this time.

Water Quality – EPA: RS said the VOM is now in compliance with the EPA Violation. An IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination) plan is in effect. The EPA may accept the progress being made by ARCADIS and may close out the violation and convert it to an order of consent. Phil's notes mention that ARCADIS has completed the outflow testing in the Beaver Swamp Brook area. They will move on to investigating elevated readings that they found. We will continue to follow.

Water Quality – LWRP: There will be a meeting at the July Work Session to review changes for the next proposed step in the LWRP. Phil's notes: "My formal role ended in January when the Mayor's Steering Committee was disbanded. The CFTE is named as an important ongoing player for water quality issues. Thus we want to follow developments. At this point we must depend on our BOT Liaison, Ilissa Miller, for information Will there be a final public hearing for community input this summer as was mentioned?"

Water Quality – Flow reduction strategy: RS said the BOT doubled monies for lining system main pipes by 82% for this year. Phil's notes: "the VOM has an ongoing sewer lining

program. The VOM does increments each year to reduce storm water infiltration of the sanitary sewers. County representatives are meeting with Village officials next Thursday to explain their intentions with following up on the major flow study issued last June 16. Significant demands for a remediation program may be unveiled.”

Water Quality – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (M4S): RS said we have been filing required reports on an annual basis. We have an active IDDE program, the law has been followed and the plans and programs are in place. The VOM is working with the DEC on active, non-point source pollution in Westchester County. The Village also uses a field vacuum. Phil has a copy of the annual report and will give a synopsis at the next meeting.

Will Village join SWEAC and Sustainable Westchester? - The VOM will be joining Sustainable Westchester this year (NWEAC + SWEAC = Sustainable Westchester.)

EIC Program: “Energize New York” : This program provides a “green bank” to lend monies to businesses and building owners which cannot afford the sometimes large initial outlay to procure “green” technologies to become more energy efficient.. It will be a division of NYSERDA (NYS Energy Research and Development Authority). Loans can be repaid at a lower interest rate than banks would charge. Repayment would be administered by local government through property tax payments. A business cannot obtain the low interest loan until the village it is in joins EIC (no fee to join). Marc recently sent RS information about the program, the applications forms and contact to answer questions. RS will review and recommend whether to join or not.

Food Waste, composting in schools (We Future Recycle): New Rochelle parent, Anna Giordano, will contact our school board regarding a program to teach students to self-sort their lunch waste and its subsequent collection. This program saves significant costs for schools in reduced hauling fees.

Respectfully submitted:
Jean Peron

Next Meeting: July 15, 2014