

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF MAY 20 , 2014, AT 7:30 P.M. AT COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVE
MAMARONECK, NY 10543

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

ABSENT: Jillian Ammerman

Visitors: Kathie Desmond (Marine Education Center Director), Leon Potok (BOT Trustee), Stuart Teikert (Concerned Citizen) Russell Hart (Pro-Bamboo Advocate), Clark Neuringer (Architect and Harbor Coastal Zone committee member).

Minutes of April, 2014 meeting not presented for approval.

April 26 – Earth Day – Beach Cleanup – review, lessons learned.

Attendance at this year's cleanup were lower than last year's (note: last year's attendance was lower than year before). For more details, please see attached notes.

May 3 – Water Quality (WQ) Forum - review, lessons learned.

The speakers were well prepared, informative and their speeches kept to a tight time schedule. The public enjoyed light refreshments. The general consensus was that the Forum was very successful. Kudos to Cathy Hiller.

Communications/Website: The CFTE website needs to be revamped, for example, the WQ page should have current test results and an explanation of how to interpret them. Any original compositions should first be submitted by the author to Richard Slingerland, Village Manager (RS) for vetting. Other “stock” items, e. g. environmental news, etc., can be put on the webpage (mamaroneckgreen.org) without prior vetting. There was some confusion as to what should/should not be posted. Ilissa will get a clear determination from RS. At this writing Shonna and Jean have rights to change the website. Each Committee member should feed pertinent information to them.

Community Gardens: Sarah is working with Colin Greenberg and RS to determine sites, fencing and other issues. Nothing has been finalized as yet. Ilissa said this was discussed by at a BOT work session and approved by entire Board. Corporate sponsors may be solicited. The Parks Superintendent will work with the CFTE.

Recycling: Joan wrote to the BOT on behalf of the Committee in support of leaf bagging. Ilissa said it is not a main priority right now but its status can be upgraded . **Textile recycling** was discussed at a BOT work session and was favorably received. BOT must first approve it. The recycling company would accept cloth of any kind and in any state, e.g. stained, ripped, etc. There would be no cost to the VOM. Bin location would need to be addressed. Once in place, publicity will be needed. **Ink and toner cartridges recycling at the Regatta:** this will be postponed until June's meeting.

Add Styrofoam to the list of banned substances? This would apply to businesses only, e.g. McDonalds. No other community has banned it. Catherine Parker (CP), Westchester County Legislator, said a WC initiative makes more sense. Marc will contact CP. Hastings has it up for a vote but it has not yet been voted upon. Ilissa will recommend to RS that Styrofoam use be banned from VOM buildings. **School lunch recycling:** a Mrs. Anna Giordano of New Rochelle would like to present her views on lunch recycling in schools to the Mamaroneck Superintendent of Schools as well as Peter Mustich, Rye Neck Superintendent of Schools asking them to consider a meeting with her and telling them that we support it. As a committee, we cannot be involved in school matters, as the schools are a separate entity. VOM Summer Camp may be an area where children are taught to sort their lunch trash for recycling.

Carbon Footprint /Air Quality) and Software – A (paid) intern will be working on this and results should be ready soon. 2008 is the base year.

Planting of Indigenous plants, bamboo ban – 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. Should it spread to a neighbor's property, the person who planted it will be held responsible for any costs to remove it. Fines will be imposed for failure to do so and can be recurring. The Tree Committee approved of the new regulation.

Permeable surfaces – Ilissa will talk to RS regarding planning a permeable surfaces project.

Water Quality – EPA: 2014 testing has begun by ARCADIS. The next steps will involve investigating any hot-spots identified.

Water Quality – LWRP - Ilissa said the BOT will review “Policies” sections of the LWRP and make changes with the advice of the DEC. One more public hearing will be held this summer. The BOT will have a final plan ready in August for DEC approval.

Water Quality – Save the Sound – The new Save the Sound office will open soon in Mamaroneck. Ms. Tracy Brown will be the STS Director for the Western Long Island Sound. The 2014 water testing program has been promised as their first priority. Sarah Richards and Phil are following and will get involved in asking for volunteers to help.

Water Quality – Storm water proposed law - Mr. Neuringer said his committee spent many hours reviewing the proposed new storm water law. It made the determination that the proposed law was not consistent with the LWRP. He said the HCZM, as an advisory committee, should be able to advise the BOT on consistency. If the four aspects found inconsistent were modified, they would be able to comply with the law. He said the BOT can change law to be consistent. He suggested the committee view the LWRP BOT session to become informed.

Phil commented that the CFTE discussed the proposed law at our last month’s meeting and decided that we had no input on the technical language. He felt that the HCZN was the best forum for BOT advice and that no further action on our part is necessary.

State Pollutants Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) – Mr. Tiekert said this is a yearly permit for future storm water pipe repairs. He said the VOM is in violation of the SPDES permit, as the BOT can produce only one of the three documents required by the permit. The required documents are the “Storm water Management Program” and the “Storm water Management Program Plan. He suggested that the CTFE look into the alleged permit violations. On this topic, RS requested a public meeting to

present a storm water pollution prevention plan, the storm management program and the erosion and sediment control provisions under Chapter 294, including provisions for Chapter 294 in the amendments. The chairs will follow up to schedule such a meeting.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (M4S) - Phil has received the draft Annual Report and is reviewing ton behalf of the CFTE.

Will Village join SWEAC and Sustainable Westchester? - Benefits of joining are that grants as well as opportunities to become more sustainable are offered by government. These grants, etc., are aimed at corporations and businesses. The VOM needs to administer grants even if not given directly to the VOM.

The VOM can join this year for free. RS is presently working on a RFP (request for proposal) for street lighting. It should be completed by June.

Items not on the agenda:

Industrial Area Development- Ilissa said a seven-member committee has been formed to study development of our industrial area.

Class Action Suit filed in Chicago – This may be of interest to all municipalities. This suit was filed for not addressing the needs of climate change.

Photovoltaic Cells: Marc sent the Committee a “Model Small-Scale Solar Siting Ordinance” for the Committee’s review. He will meet with Larry Cohen from the Board of Architectural Review to discuss this matter.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Peron

Next Meeting: June 17, 2014

Details on 2014 Cleanup follows:

(4/30/2014- rev.6/10/14)

Clean Up Green Up notes of 2014 – April 26, 2014
Sixth Annual Cleanup – 9:00 a.m. to 12:30

Planning

Our first meeting to get things going was March 26, 2014. It was attended by Richard Slingerland (RS), VM, Dan Sarnoff (DS), Asst. Village Manager, Jillian Ammerman, Tony Iacovelli, Jean Peron.

The plan was to plant a tree early (Tree Committee), hold Marine Education Center ceremonies then do the clean up/green up. We also thought we would plant milkweed (to encourage Monarch butterflies) and black-eyed Susan seeds at the native plant area near Orienta Ave, and Columbus Park.

We discussed supplies needed, e.g. rakes, gloves, yard waste bags, sign-in sheets, maps, handouts, e.g. recyclable bags, pooper-scooper bags, etc. 8 tables and 20 chairs were to be placed at Rec. building by DPW. Jean would order seeds.

We noted the imminent need for introductory letters to bring to vendors, signs needed and flyers.

We distributed necessary tasks: getting corporate volunteers, group volunteers, e.g. boy scouts, neighborhood associations, schools, etc. RS and DS said they would print flyers and arrange for signage. They would also supply maps and sign-up sheets for volunteers. Shonna Keogan, publicity, would be alerted to send email blasts, Facebook notices, newspaper articles. Dan Natchez would be notified to send blasts. Sally Roberts, Deputy Clerk, volunteered to contact Boy Scouts, DS volunteered to contact the Shore Acres Community.

We agreed on vendors to be asked for donations: A&P, Boianos Bakery, Brewers, Con Ed, Covanta, Chocolations, Dunkin Donuts, McDonald's, Soundwaters, Stop & Shop, Turkish Meze and Legume, Westchester Bakery. Until all vendors are lined up, flyers cannot be created.

Phil Horner asked the Water Quality Committee to walk streams and river previous to clean up to determine which areas need to be cleaned.

The Kayak Club volunteered to clean up the Harbor from the water – Cathy Hiller will do it at a later date.

The date of April 26th was chosen due to its proximity with Earth Day.

Implementation and Issues

This year, the signs from 2013 could not be located. Signs had to be re-created. This caused a delay in posting the signs until a few days before the event. Normally, the only change to previous year's signs is date change. Also the flyers were not ready until Monday of that week. We had one large sign (posted at mouth of HI) and two smaller signs should have been

posted on Palmer Ave near Post Office (but only one small sign on Keeler was posted), and on grassy area near Keeler Ave. It is my understanding (email from Diane Fasola (DPW) – 5/28/14) that the 2014 Clean Up/Green Up signs now stored at the DPW garage.

Flyers were delayed both by indecisiveness of some vendors and problems with design software.

Laura Holbrook set up the display case in the CVS Walkway.

Day of Event:

Volunteers picked up the assigned donations and delivered them in a timely manner. Clean Up tools were delivered in a timely manner. The Parks Dept set up tables and chairs and helped with random chores. They brought down give-a-ways, sign up sheets and a list of places to clean. Instructions as to where to clean up were written instead of maps.

Laura Holbrook took out a family to plant seeds. (She also cleaned up the area she planted in – the wildflower area on Orienta Ave.) Monica Barrach brought in samples of compost.

Jillian Ammerman placed a collage at the MEC made by Mamk children showing debris picked up at Harbor from previous years and the birds that may be harmed by it.

Statistics: three tons of organic waste, and ½ ton garbage were collected. Community participate was lower than last year's (which was lower than 2012). 55 people signed in at the Harbor. Other groups might have cleaned up their local areas, but did not register, e.g. Orienta.

Suggestions for next year:

- ▶ Select a date that doesn't compete with too many other major events. Perhaps the clean up can be moved to the fall.
- ▶ If possible, we should set up where there would be empty fields so our tables, etc., can more readily be seen by the public.
- ▶ Have signs and flyers ready at early date.
- ▶ One suggestion is to eliminate vendor list on flyers and instead have signs with each vendor name prominently displayed on the table instead. **Or** have a cutoff date for vendors to be listed on flyer. After that date, "handmade" signs listing the "late" vendors could be placed on donation table. (Note: The flyer could have a general statement that donations from local vendors will be available instead of a list.)
- ▶ A suggestion was made to move the tables next to Marine Education Center.
- ▶ To insure inclusion of local cleanup volunteers who may not begin their cleanup at Harbor Island, sending the community leader a sign up sheet in advance, to be filled in and collected after the cleanup would solve the problem.

Housekeeping Note: Surplus napkins and paper cups from the 2014 clean up (and for future events) are stored for the CFTE (along with glass wine glasses) in the Library kitchen closet at the bottom.

Submitted by Jean Peron