

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF JULY 15, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE COURT ROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE MAMARONECK, NY 10543

**PRESENT:** Jillian Ammerman, Monica Barach, Joan Hellman, Cathy Hiller, Laura Holbrook, Marc Karell, Shonna Keogan, Kathryn Mcmanus, Ilissa Miller (by phone)

**ABSENT:** Jean Peron, Phil Horner, Sarah Richards

**GUESTS:** Assistant Village Manager, Dan Sarnoff; Kristen Carpenter; Maria Karsou; Jane Meryll; David Finch

Minutes were approved from June meeting.

Communications: Shonna reported that she was no longer able to access the website to update Environmental Committee information. Dan Sarnoff, Assistant Village Manager said he would look into it. Publicity/Marketing focus for the next few months: August – Water Quality; September – Idling; Oct/Nov – Mulching. Shonna will be looking for input/interviewees for outreach. Laura asked if the poster in covered walkway by CVS could be sponsored to cover cost of printing. Dan said he would investigate.

Leaf Blower Ban: Further discussion of possible changes to leaf blower ban. Trustee Miller confirmed that the public hearing about proposed changes has not been closed. She felt the majority of the Trustees wanted to change who would be fined for violations so that the lawn company workers were not fined, instead the lawn company owner or home owner would be responsible. At that time, lifting the ban on electric leaf blowers was still under consideration. The Village still requested that village workers could use blowers.

Barry \_\_\_ from the Parks Department spoke to the committee. He felt that to clean up the parks and make them ‘look nice,’ blowers were necessary. They are only blowing the walkways and sidewalks. He felt the blowers were only being used for 20 minutes at a time and that they were not used when people were in the parks. In response to a question from Ilissa he said there was not a specific time schedule for use of the blowers. The Village uses backpack blowers, not the big machines. The Village has 119 acres of grass, which is a high percentage for a small municipality.

Cathy asked if Harbor Island could be raked after a high tide, trash from West Basin is deposited on the grass. Barry explained they can rake it on Fridays when they cut the grass if they have the manpower. Often employees are pulled from the Parks Department to help Sanitation so reduces number of people available.

There was still concern from the committee that use of leaf blowers privileges clean sidewalks over public health. And that although blowers are not supposed to be used around children, that they still sometimes were.

Laura and Kathryn volunteered to draft a letter to the VOM Trustees regarding the CFTE position on changes in the leaf blower ban.

Community Garden: One location planned for this summer. Bub Walker park near Fenimore Road. Because of the annual Carnival, no work in preparation had been done yet. The expectation was that construction of raised beds would start in July. There was some discussion about feasibility of location because of access to water. Florence Park was mentioned as a possible location because of water access. Stanley Park was considered difficult because of areas that flood.

Recycling: Joan felt there was no interest in adding Styrofoam to plastic bag ban. Textile recycling is also tabled for now as no location for bins has been found. Monica reported that it may be necessary to add a disincentive for the use of paper bags to the plastic bag ban to avoid litigation. Marc asked about reorganizing VOM's recycling center, Dan said there have been conversations about rearranging recycling bins.

Carbon Footprint: Marc reported that the Village is nearly done measuring its carbon footprint. He will put together a draft report.

Water Quality: Dan reported that in the most recent report there is a hot spot at Rye Neck HS; a report has been filed with the EPA. There have been some issues with sanitary overflow in Orienta, The DEC remediation plan which will include dye testing, actively investigating general inflow and infiltration to determine amount of sewage coming into system from other municipalities. Each municipality is responsible for their area, in the VOM's initial report 2011-12, it exceeded acceptable rate 50% of the time. The biggest issue is all the connections. The sewage system is 80 to 100 years old and tree roots seek out the nutrients and water, which increases leaks. The VOM has allocated money to relining the sewers. The industrial area has already been relined, they are now in the process of relining Washingtonville. There are 60 miles of regular sewer.

It was noted that the homeowner is responsible for the lateral connection, it was noted that most homeowners do not ask about integrity of connection. Housing inspectors look for illicit connections as part of due diligence but checking is not part of regular inspection.

LWRP: Dan reported that the latest draft has been received and will be posted on the website. He believes the draft would reflect comments from the board and the public. The major issue is jurisdiction.

MISC: September 20<sup>th</sup> is International Coastal Clean Up Day – Some members will organize participation by Mamaroneck residents.

A guest asked how much the committee works with the Town of Mamaroneck. Marc mentioned that the Town of Mamaroneck is working on, among other areas, ways to make the Town more bike friendly, including devoted bike paths. A Town citizen is developing a map of potential bike paths and areas for bike parking, including areas in the Village. Dan mentioned working with the Rye YMCA on its ‘complete streets’ program.

The committee agreed to skip the August meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 16, 2014