

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF  
JANUARY 30, 2013, AT 7:30 P.M. AT COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVE  
MAMARONECK, NY 10543

**PRESENT:** Cathy Hiller, Monica Barach, Joan Heilman, Phil Horner, Jean Peron, Shonna Keogan, Katy McManus

**ABSENT:** Jilian Ammerman, Laura Holbrook, Marc Karell , Ilissa Miller,  
Liaison to BOT

Minutes of December 17, 2013 meeting were approved.

**April 26<sup>th</sup> Earth Day – Beach Cleanup** – Jillian will organize this year’s cleanup. Jean will help. Jillian’s art project using collected beach debris is on track to be finished to coincide with the reopening of the Marine Education Center (MEC). (The art project will also be displayed on April 27<sup>th</sup> in the Library at the Water Quality (WQ) Forum.) Laura will create a sign. Shonna will publicize. Schools will be contacted to participate.

**Recycling Updates:** Joan will research Styrofoam usage and reach out to other communities to find out their policies. Shonna said the Recycling Brochure for kids will be distributed on Clean-Up Day. Joan will investigate the Southern Westchester Energy Action Consortium (SWEAC) to determine whether the CFTE can join. Monica suggested that the VOM should encourage Village-wide composting. She noted that Hastings-on-Hudson has a program in place. Sarah Richards will investigate other communities’ practices. Leaf-bagging is being considered instead of piling leaves at curbside. This will reduce amount of leaves washing into sewers as well as encourage landscapers to mulch. Joan will write a letter in support of leaf-bagging.

**Carbon Footprint /Air Quality)** – Marc would like the following to be incorporated in the minutes:

“We are making progress on the baseline (2008) carbon footprint. The more up to date carbon footprint of 2011 is complete. There is some missing and incomplete data, and the intern inputting the data is working with Rich and Dan to find the data necessary to complete the 2008 footprint, so there can be an apples to apples comparison of the two years.” (Note: “Rich” is Richard Slingerland, Village Manager, “Dan” is Dan Sarnoff, his assistant.)

**Water Quality Forum – April 27<sup>th</sup>** : Cathy and Laura are continuing the plans for the Forum. It will be 2 hours long. Cathy has spoken with 6 speakers and will lock in their commitments. She and Shonna will also try to get mention in the NYTimes Community Calendar. It will be held at the Library. Cathy noted that Laura suggested tours of the Water Treatment Plant as well as the MEC in conjunction with the Forum. Automatic beach closings may be tied in with the Forum also.

Cathy asked for suggestions for a different name for the Forum.

**Planting of Indigenous Plants:** - Sarah Richards noted that the bee population is diminishing. Bees are critical to our food supply. Native plants will afford the bees the nourishment they need to be effective at pollination. Natives also require less water and fertilizer. She will look into working with the Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College for displays and educational information. Phil suggested that VOM should plant natives on Village property. The Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System's (MS4) plan is to plant natives plants, bushes, etc., along the waterways. Shonna and Sarah will look into the possibility of indigenous plant meetings, displays, trees, etc.

**Education – outreach website:** the Communications sub-committee will be in charge of the CVS walkway display showcase. Shonna proposed getting kids' artwork there. The Communications sub-committee will also publicize plastic bag ban, the lawn blower laws, clean-up day, WQ Forum, MEC and other accomplishments.

Plastic Bag Offenders: Nothing to report.

**Other: Air quality:** - Katy is looking into the use of in-car battery packs for police vehicles to run electrical devices needed by the police: lap tops, emergency lights (to avoid constant idling). She will discuss with RS. She will also look into what people living in the Washingville area should do to improve their air quality, which is presently one of the poorest in Mamaroneck.

**Permeable surfaces** – Jean has found a test research project in Edison, NJ, for measuring infiltration rates of in-place pervious surfaces. They used the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) guidelines. The concise conclusion is that the infiltration of the some of the several types of pervious concrete tested, e.g. interlocking pavement, was approximately

twice that of other types of pervious concrete surfaces and more than 10 times higher than pervious asphalt. Costs were not the objectives of this report. Jean's contact there was chemical engineer Mike Borst at the EPA.

**Oysters:** Jean said Sarah Evans has written to marine biologist, Sandy Shumway to ask if she would come to Mamaroneck to evaluate our beaches and possibility speak at the February 19 LIS SoundFest featuring a 40-minute prize-winning documentary, "ShellShocked," a film about the benefits of oysters in our waters. It will take place at Mamaroneck Library. It is a "Sneek [sic] Peek of the Long Island Sound Science Festival" to be held in the fall.

**Sustainability Coordinator:** Cathy would like to propose the hiring of a Coordinator as a Village employee who would focus on environmental needs. The coordinator most likely would be part time. He/she would save money for the Village by creating sustainability plans, getting grants, publicizing environmentally friendly techniques, e.g. lawn mulch mower, reducing utility bills, overseeing performance contracts, etc.

**Green Teams:** These teams are comprised of "green" representatives from each department. They are tasked to encourage green practices within their department. A motion was made and approved to recommend that RS encourage green teams from each department.

The Committee decided to focus on promoting the green team idea first before focusing on the idea of a sustainability officer.

**Water Quality Overview:** Phil wants to build on past successes.

- Use the MEC as base to inform public – Kathy Desmond
- Keep beach and yacht clubs in the loop with WQ information – Sarah Evans
- Spread word of beach closings
- Interpreting WQ test results
- Contact DOH and WC (Jean)
- Contact Save the Sound – Sarah
- Meet and keep up to date with ARCADIS' current and future plans.

The highest priority of the WQ Team is communicating with the public. Phil will send pertinent info to Shonna for publicity.

**Local Water Revitalization Plan (LWRP):** After five years of discussion, the Plan has been re-written and will be presented to the BOT. High among the

important points of the Plan is to decide which of three boards makes final decisions on consistency with the Plan, and which board function as an advisory group. The three boards are the Harbor Coastal Zone Management (HZCM), Planning, Board of Architectural Review.

**Items Not on the Agenda:**

**Organization of Sub-Committees:**

Recycling: Joan Heilman, Phil Horner, Monica Barach, Sarah Richards

Water Quality: Phil Horner, Jean Peron, Joan Heilman, Sarah Evans (ancillary), Kathy Desmond – in coordination with the MEC.

Webpage – Shonna Keogan, Jean Peron, Cathy Hiller

Carbon Footprint – Marc Karrell

Air Quality – Katy McManus

TBD - Laura Holbrook

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Peron

Next Meeting: February 18, 2014