

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014, AT 7:30 P.M. AT COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVE
MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: Monica Barach (Co-Chair), Joan Heilman, Cathy Hiller, Phil Horner, Marc Karell (Co-Chair), Shonna Keogan, Katy McManus, Jean Peron, Sarah Richards

ABSENT: Jillian Ammerman, Laura Holbrook, Ilissa Miller, Liaison to BOT (contributed by phone)

Minutes of July 15, 2014 meeting approved.

Communications/Webpage: Phil re-designed the Water Quality website to include more beach closing data, but he suggest it should be used as a source for data, not necessarily to inform the public. Joan and Jean will work on redesign of the mamaroneckgreen.org website next week. Shonna will be making all changes to the website after the redesign is done. Cathy said the title of the “Helpful Links” section of the website should be either changed or deleted.

Shonna wanted school children to do WQ testing and reporting with Save The Sound (STS) but has not gotten a response from the STS The Sound as yet. Tracy Brown, Director, Western Long Island Sound, STS, will be reminded

Community Gardens: The work on the community garden at the Bub Walker Park has stalled. The problem is most likely the difficulty of water supply. Katy said any community garden must have access to water . Sarah has seen water-catching systems in Washington, D.C and will send photos to the Committee, and any other ideas of how to have an adequate water supply for the community garden at Bub Walker Park should be sent to Richard Slingerland (RS), Village Manager or Dan Sarnoff (DS), Assistant Village Manager. Water barrels have some drawbacks.

Recycling:

Composting, leaf mulching, bagging leaves: Marc said our role is only to encourage composting, not to change the law. There will be a leaf-mowing demo on using mulching mowers. Greenburg has a “Leave leaves alone” program. Monica suggested placing “mulching” signs at strategic places in the VOM. Ideas of verbiage for the signs are welcomed by Monica. She will be in touch with Barry Casterella, Dept. of Parks and

suggested putting Barry's photo on The Patch, Facebook, and the website. Shonna will look into doing this will add interest and a positive note. Ilissa will send out mulching information to neighborhood community associations, Face Book and e-blasts

Recycling – continued

Bagging leaves: The BOT vote on mandatory bagging of leaves did not pass. It is not being considered at this time.

Rearranging Recycling Center:

The Recycling Center is limited by space with very little room to expand. Joan thinks that rearranging the bins might create enough space for a large dumpster for plastics, metals, and glass. Currently, there are only two small dumpsters designated for these recyclables; these bins are too small to hold everything deposited there by residents and businesses, resulting in overflowing bins plus bags of recyclables piled up around them. Joan will consider whether it would be worthwhile to write to the Village Manager about her suggestions for changes.

There was a question about where to place electronic and electrical items for recycling.. For safety reasons, they should be placed in the indicated drop-off area in front of the designated dumpster. They will be moved into the dumpster later by a DPW worker.

Joan will meet soon with Dan Sarnoff to update the Recycling Brochure for 2015. There was a discussion about including inserts in the mailing, as they were last year. Marc suggested a flyer on leaf mulching and Joan may update hers on "How to Recycle Everything." Other suggestions are welcome.

Review of proposed rule regulating leaf blowers: This proposed law will be on the BOT Agenda for public hearing. It had been found to be inconsistent with the LWRP by the HCZM. The issue concerns the compliance of schools and municipalities. It remains for the lawyers to determine if schools and municipalities are exempt/not exempt from using leaf blowers all year, the law also would add business owners to the list of parties who may receive summonses.

Carbon Footprint /Air Quality) and Software: Marc reported that the energy audit is done and RS will review and comment. The projected savings since 2008 is 3% to 5% carbon reduction, this may be on the low side considering the energy-saving programs put in place by the VOM. The final results should be out soon.

Marc said the RFP (request for proposal) to switch light bulbs to LED has not gone out as yet. RS and DS said switching to LEDs will drastically reduce energy consumption.

Software: Marc has suggested Utility Track, a software system to track energy use. Energy data entered into the software will be easier to tabulate,

PACE: (Property Assessed Clean Energy) This is a public-private partnership. Government provides the structure for the entity to borrow at a low rate to start clean energy projects. Repayment is made through property taxes. As yet, the VOM has not signed on.

SWEAC (Southern Westchester Energy Action Consortium)– Marc was not sure if the VOM has joined as yet. *SWEAC* is a collaboration of municipalities addressing energy and other sustainability concerns in Southern Westchester.

Water Quality – EPA: The CFTE has not yet gotten copies of ARCADIS' work on the EPA violation, although the VOM is now in compliance. Save The Sound (STS) testing results were sent to the CFTE, RS, and Department of Health. No conclusion reached with the STS testing and Beach testing data as yet. Phil said our intent is to post the results and findings of the testing, and believes he can get the cooperation of STS to publish our results, thereby getting more information to the public, as our WQ website is poorly visited.

This year the water was cleaner due to lack of rain. That does not indicate a permanent solution. Also, no testing was done of droppings and pollution from drain pipes.

Water Quality – LWRP: Phil is no longer on the LWRP board. Due to the disagreements regarding governance on consistency, conclusions have been slow. It will be discussed at the BOT Meeting on Monday, September 22. Marc thinks that neither the BOT nor the HCZM should have complete power to decide. The HCZM will keep a running log of all issues of consistency.

Water Quality: M4S - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System – this has been dropped for now.

Plastic Bag Ban: Monica suggested eliminating newspaper plastic bags by having newspapers inserted into a curbside mailbox. It was decided that it was not practical at this time.

Deer: tabled

FASNY (French American School of New York) – Based on a letter to the Committee from Ilissa, Jean mentioned that the FASNY school's proposed move to White Plains can negatively impact pollution in the Mamaroneck

River and ultimately the LIS. Ilissa stated that any pollution coming downstream from a neighboring municipality can be questioned by the affected municipality which can then request an Environment Impact Statement and can halt the project while it is being reviewed. She said either the Village Manager or the HCZM can become involved. Because of time constraints, no further discussion took place.

Items not on agenda: Cathy mentioned the LEEDS Library celebration will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, also the Climate March will take place in NYC at Columbus Circle on Sunday, September 21. Marc said terms of service for three committee members have expired. By law, members are allowed two two-year terms. This will be discussed at next meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
Jean Peron

Next Meeting: October 21, 2014