

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 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, Jillian Ammerman, Laura Holbrook, Sarah Richards, Greg Cutler, Assistant Planner, Richard Slingerland, Village Manager, Maria Karsou, Ilissa Miller, Liaison to BOT (contributed by phone)

ABSENT: Katy McManus, Jean Peron,

Cathy Hiller spoke to mention an article she authored, published by the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club, describing the People's Climate March. Richard has shared the link to this article with the committee and has requested it be added to the CFTE website.

Minutes of September 16, 2014 meeting approved.

Communications/Webpage: Jean and Joan are working to decide on changes to the website removing outdated info, adding updated info, rewriting for clarity as needed. These proposed changes will be given to Shonna to upload. Jean has the password therefore should the password be needed, contact Jean.

Phil stated the need for the site become more intuitive. Richard stated he has proposed a resource to update the website.

Leaf mulching banner: Laura requested one banner be moved to the CVS walkway and Richard agreed he would request the current Fennimore Road banner be moved to the requested location.

Deer: Richard and others described the deer issue in the Village. Sarah took an action to provide information on native plants that are deer-resistant:

<http://www.wildflower.org/plants/combo.php?fromsearch=true&distribution=NY&habit=&duration=>

Laura stated that the Jay Center conducted a study on the deer population. Richard stated that Hastings has begun deer control, including deer contraception and (ACTION) will speak to the Hastings council for more information. Monica stated that deer could provide a food source for the community or soup kitchens. Phil mentioned the difficulty with finding a solution to satisfy the community and referenced the controversy with eliminating the Canadian geese in Harbor Island.

Joan brought up the topic of mosquitoes and stated they were especially numerous. Sarah recommended bat boxes which are used in heavily wooded areas with success as bats eat mosquitoes.

Walking path vegetation overgrowth: Cathy thanked Richard and the Parks Department for trimming back the overgrown vegetation and repairing the path border planks. Richard stated he would pass along the appreciation and stated the maintenance of the natural area was under a 2-year contract with a 1-year extension to remove invasive plants in Rushmore and Columbus Parks. He would provide the names of 2 people helping with this (ACTION).

Sport Time Tennis Franchise: Discussion ensued regarding the release of crushed stone/clay into the water surrounding Harbor Island Park. Richard explained that material from the courts including Calcium Chloride is leeching into the water. Additionally there is evidence of clay in the water. Richard stated that tennis courts have existed in Harbor Island since 1950 and have always been clay. Sport Time operates the tennis courts however they are owned by the village. Currently the surface is comprised of Hadeka Stone. Sport Time agreed to upgrade the surface to Har-Tru however this investment in the upgrade did not occur due to changes in management and a conflict with the Harbor Island Masterplan. Cathy asked why the tennis courts have not been moved to a higher location and Richard responded that the Board does not wish to use municipal money to move the courts. Incidentally the courts produce income to the Village of \$300K-400K per year. Marc stated the need to reduce the discharge from the courts and mentioned a sand filter with bio-filtration.

2 Solutions were presented: an immediate solution costing \$50K-100K which the Village would pay vs. moving the courts at a cost of \$3-7M which Sport Time would pay.

FASNY: Ilissa described changes from the French American School of New York. FASNY is proposing to build in White Plains on a surface which previously held a golf course. The environmental impact to the Village is currently unknown but should potentially be monitored. The potential exists for the Village to experience higher water levels from this change as it is lower and downstream from the FASNY location. Richard stated the Army Corp of Engineers are on Notice for this project and that the County Planning Board is also involved. The School's plans are open for review and traffic concerns have been addressed. Options such as green roofs and rain gardens were discussed as design can improve the environmental impact. Laura agreed to track the issue and report back to the Committee with updates.

Recycling/Composting: Richard stated the Village is working on a mailing to be sent by month end and Monica requested it include information she will send regarding the benefits of mulching leaves. Leaf collection will continue this year as in the past. Ilissa stated the need to continue including a leaf management plan if we want the Village to be "tree positive". Joan shared a photo of the Village recycling center. As trucks and snowplows are parked in the recycling lot there is no room for additional recycling containers. Richard stated the containers are emptied more than once per week and that one employee works part time on site to organize the area. Joan expressed the need to add containers as the current ones are full to capacity. The electronic items must be left on the ground for the employee to tape up. Richard requested that he organize a call with himself, Tony, and Joan (ACTION) to discuss further. Maria stated she is aware of multi-tenant buildings that mix recycling and garbage and will provide the address to Richard (ACTION). Maria stated further that she has seen the MTA commingle the recycling and garbage. Richard stated that while he is unsure where the MTA put their waste, he will write an executive notice (ACTION).

Leaf Blower Law: Richard stated the outcome of the latest discussion of the Board was: Village and School employees may now use gas blowers on paths during periods when this is banned from the general public. The change was voted 3-2. Extensive discussion ensued regarding how to limit use of leaf blowers during periods outside the fall season. Phil requested a policy regarding year-round use of blowers near people as the air quality hazards are well-documented and sometimes ignored by Village employees. Phil believes

there is mass non-enforcement of the leaf blower law and that police do not issue tickets. Richard explained that police must literally catch individuals “in the act” to issue a ticket. Cathy asked how many tickets had been issued and Richard responded many warnings and a couple dozen tickets had been issued. Laura requested we issue notice in the flyer/mailed delivered just prior to the next leaf blower ban date. ACTION: Sarah to obtain mailing list of landscaping crews in the area from the New York State Turf & Landscape Association.

Carbon Footprint: Richard and Ilissa request any communications regarding this report go to them prior to uploading to the website. Kudos to all involved for the execution and completion of this report, and a special thanks to Marc who pushed to ensure this important effort did not fall through the cracks.

Village baseline (2008) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions totaled 2,174 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents. In 2011, Village GHG emissions were calculated to be 2,052 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents, and in 2013, 2,124 metric tons of CO₂ equivalents were emitted, representing a decrease of 3% from the baseline.

Heating demand, measured by degree-days, and severe weather data were similar in 2008 and 2013. The small decrease in GHG emissions was surprising given the activities by the Village that would be expected to reduce it by a greater margin (switching several buildings from oil to gas, purchasing fuel efficient automobiles, switching to more efficient lights in some buildings). Electricity, mobile sources, and building heating usage were all fairly equal contributors to GHG emissions, with electricity being the largest component.

The report contains energy use trends in Village operations and general recommendations for the Village to further reduce energy usage, energy costs, and GHG emissions in the future without reducing services to the public.

Cathy mentioned a Green Committee was formed in New Rochelle which includes members from existing personnel such as police, sanitation, etc.

Harbor Beach Lock Up: Cathy stated that in the past the beach would remain open after 5pm, with the understanding that people could swim at their own risk as the lifeguard had left for the day. No problems were encountered from this use of the beach. Richard stated a person had died and that the police were ignored when they asked swimmers to leave the area. Ilissa stated the Board would address the beach closure as it pertained to Village policy and was not an environmental issue.