

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING OF
MARCH 18, 2014, AT 7:30 P.M. AT COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVE
MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: Jillian Ammerman, Monica Barach (Co-Chair), Phil Horner,
Marc Karell (Co-Chair), Shonna Keogan, Jean Peron, Sarah Richards

ABSENT: Joan Heilman, Laura Holbrook, Katy McManus , Ilissa Miller,
Liaison to BOT

Visitors: Catherine Parker (CP), WC Legislator, George Latimer, NYS
Senator, Andres Bermudez Halstrom

Minutes of February 18, 2014 meeting were approved.

April 26th Earth Day – Beach Cleanup/Green Up

Jean and Jillian will email the Committee to ask for volunteers for tasks needed for the cleanup morning. Tasks include collecting donations from vendors, helping at the Harbor – sign-in sheets, map distribution, food and drink setup, possible milkweed planting for children, and any other help where needed. There will be a tree planting ceremony before the cleanup/green-up begins (9:00 a.m.). The bus tours to local nature centers originally planned for the day have been postponed. Legislator Parker (LP) said that the Rye Y is organizing a tour of local nature centers.

Marine Education Center (MEC) Opening: 2014 season opening of the Marine Education Center will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Cleanup/Green-Up day.

Communications: Marc noted there is room for improvement of communications between the Committee and the BOT. He said one of the co-chairs will call Richard Slingerland (RS), Village Manager, a few days before to be each monthly meeting to learn of potential Village initiatives to discuss and also shortly after our meeting to inform him about any environmental issues raised by our Committee.

Food Composting: Food-digester machines have been tested at Westchester County recycling centers but there is no evidence yet that they

would be worth the cost. At the Scarsdale School system, a parent lead-lead initiative has created a composting program. It was reported that the district pays \$5,000 a year for a hauler to take the waste to a composting in CT. Because of the reduced amount of waste, the cost of garbage disposal has decreased but we are not sure if the cost decreased by the full \$5,000 amount. The Committee may hold a separate composting program in the fall.

Recycling Updates: Nothing to report, as Joan is away. Phil said we are not planning a study of leaf bagging to replace curb leaf pickup at this time as was discussed earlier.

Styrofoam- Phil said it is found everywhere and doesn't degrade. At this time the only means of eliminating it is incineration. CP said a substitute material should be found. She would like to ban it countywide. (As an aside, there are 57 possible carcinogens in the manufacture of Styrofoam – JeanP)

SWEAC – Southern Westchester Energy Action Consortium – Marc recommended that the BOT join for a yearly fee of \$1000. There would be no charge for this year if we joined before the merger with NWEAC.

Carbon Footprint /Air Quality) and Software – The new base line is 2008, but there are missing data which will hold up the results, but he said that will not stop the study. He has suggested to RS that the Village buy a license and use software to keep track of energy data that converts it to greenhouse gases emissions for the future, as other municipalities have done.

Planting of Indigenous plants, bamboo ban – The running species of bamboo is highly invasive because of the aggressive rhizomes it sends out. It causes hazards on roadways when it falls after a rain event. Also, the roots which grow quickly are sharp and can be hazardous to children. A proposed law would outlaw planting of running bamboo and mandate control of existing running bamboo plants. It would outlaw planting on Village property. Regarding indigenous plants – Sarah will put up information on the CVS walkthrough display case. Native Plants – Phil said the planting of natives is part of the M4S plan. Selected sites are the west basin and Sheldrake River. He is hoping to be able to include funds for more West Basin plantings in this year's budget. He and Sarah will follow up.

Plastic Bag Ban Enforcement – The Town of Mamaroneck is planning a letter writing campaign against Stop & Shop. It will let us know how we can coordinate with them. CP said that a possible County Ban may be feasible.

Permeable surfaces – In order to possibly ease water runoff into our storm sewers, Jean has asked for Ilissa to contact her regarding an experimental permeable project. Andres said he would relay the request to Ilissa.

Water Quality – EPA – ARCADIS has gotten funds to continue testing for 2014. It has a seven-step testing program. Results should be publicized and put on webpage. Phil will pursue with the Water Quality Team.

Water Quality – Flow Reduction Strategy- Phil said we should be informed of the strategies for flow reduction to the Water Treatment Plant but it is not our priority. CP said she will look into it at the county level.

Water Quality – LWRP - There has been an outcry from some members of the community as to the issue of which board makes final decisions on consistency and what should be included in this important plan. There complaints state vague wording, insufficient input from the public, and no forum to express their complaints – e.g. meetings and public comments. Andres said a marked-up version of the plan will be forthcoming for public input. He said the Harbor and Coastal Zone Management Commission does not write laws; policy-making is the purview of the BOT.

Oysters: Sarah Evans, former Co-Chair of the CFTE and auxiliary member, asked (through an email to Jean) the opinion of the Committee as to whether it supports the idea of the use of oysters as filters to help create cleaner water. RS is interested in being further educated on this matter. Sarah would like to invite Dr. Sandra Shumway of U. of Connecticut in Groton to advise in the matter. The consensus of the Committee was to go ahead and ask Sarah Evans to invite Dr. Shumway to assess our Harbor conditions and advise on the cost-benefit of continuing with the project.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (M4S) - Phil will report at next meeting on the VOM drafting of its Annual Report. The future-looking 2014 Programs comments give the CFTE a chance to suggest new initiatives for the coming year.

May 3 – Water Quality Forum – Cathy said the date had to be moved to May 3 due to a conflict. She has four confirmed speakers so far.

Items Not on the Agenda:

CTFE Review of SWPPP proposed law changes –Phil asked if the Committee was prepared to discuss the proposed law that was distributed after the last meeting. No other member had a position. Phil questioned whether our Committee has the technical expertise to be able to meaningfully comment the proposed law. Marc said we his should be involved on an issue like storm water and any environmental issue, e.g. construction site runoff.

VOM Budget Water Management Projects – Phil has spoken to Dan Sarnoff about the current budget now being reviewed. He will research and write a report on the Village budget to enable the Committee to determine how much money is dedicated to water quality projects such as testing, remediation, sewer cleaning and maintenance of new construction, etc. With greater understanding, the CFTE may make budget suggestions to the BOT for next year.

Energy Study - RS will issue a Request for Proposal for street lights, building lights and a demonstration solar project in the VOM.

Smoking in Parks Law – The law will be re-written to include e-cigarettes. It was not endorsed by the CFTE, as erroneously reported in local newspaper. The law might be changed to also include designated smoking areas with proper receptacles.

Respectfully submitted:
Jean Peron

Next Meeting: April, 17, 2014