

MINUTES OF CFTE MEETING, MARCH 17, 2015

Present: Monica Barach, Kristen Carpenter, Catherine Hiller, Marc Karell, Laura Holbrook, Phil Horner, Maria Karsou, Sarah Richards

From the Village Manager's Office: Greg Cutler

Liaison to the Board of Trustees: David Finch

The St. Patrick's Day meeting began, appropriately enough, with preparations for GREEN DAY. Our annual CLEAN UP/GREEN DAY will be on Saturday, April 25. Activities will take place by the Marine Center. Laura has written a Save the Date email. Green cloth shopping bags will be distributed. Save the Sound will have a table, and other tables will be run by Solarize Westchester and Sheldrake, whose display will feature healthy lawns, native plants, and soil testing. Sheldrake will also sell compost bins and sponsor a nature walk at noon. Tours of the Sewage Treatment plant – always a hit – will also be available.

The clean up aspect of the day will start at 9:30, with volunteers given heavy gloves and disposable bags, courtesy Brewer's Hardware store. People can help clean up Harbor Island Park or another Village park, we'll have maps showing all Village parks to distribute on Green Day. Volunteers are welcome to clean up any part of the Village that needs it.

Former committee member Jean Peron stopped in to tell us she's been helping Sarah with raffle prizes, including two soil-testing kits. Perhaps she'll be able to get Boiano's to donate cookies, as they have in other years.

There are no school fairs on that day, but getting people to come out is always something of a challenge. Fewer people showed up in 2014 than in 2013.

The Solarize Westchester campaign is doing well in our area, and 13 people have already signed up for solar panels on their roofs. Many people in Mamaroneck are not eligible for solar because of surrounding trees. If only two more households sign up for the program, the price comes down for everyone. The program ends June 22.

We were reminded to attend the Green Steps Expo at Larchmont Temple on March 22, which featured vendors and speakers, including our co-chair Marc Karell.

Recycling was discussed: our recycling program has caused a 40% reduction of solid waste. The Hommocks School has applied for a grant for composting food scraps, and the Village is encouraging backyard and kitchen composting. Apartment dwellers don't as yet have many composting options.

The deer problem was next on the agenda. Martin Hain went to a forum in Rye. David Finch told us that culling doesn't work because the remaining deer reproduce more when

the deer population goes down. Sterilization is expensive: deer must be darted every 18 months. There are some solutions, including a plastic coyote which is quite effective if one also uses coyote sounds and scent to repel deer. Other ideas can be found at www.wildlifecontrolsupplies.com David told us that the mayor is appointing an ad hoc committee, including people who live in Rye, to investigate further.

At this point, Village Manager Richard Slingerland walked in and told us more about the deer issue and other matters. Sterilization programs are not authorized in NY State. Our deer herd is estimated at 75-80 from a helicopter count.

Richard then discussed the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) plan. Although an aquifer runs under the area, this water has never been used for drinking. There is interest in creating a “sunset provision” that will enable the Board of Trustees to take another look at the law after 60,000 square feet of bonusable area is built. There is no indication that the TOD plan will increase flooding. The environmental reviews of the TOD area are available on the Village website.

The Wayfinding Committee, which is working toward unified signage for the Village, watched presentations through Skype from two companies. The Committee felt that one company’s presentation was superior to the other, and they are being engaged to perform the work for the Village.

Arcadis is still testing our waters, and in Orienta, more progress has been made with inflow and infiltration in the last four months than in the previous 15 years. About half of our sanitary sewers have now been cleaned. Leaky lateral sewers, which connect individual houses to the main sewers, remain a problem.

Richard is following a program at the City of Long Beach by which an insurance policy allows homeowners to test and fix leaky laterals.

Sarah mentioned that there might be \$800 million in state funds available for water projects and that people should contact her about sending emails to support this effort.

Energy reduction through LED streetlights was then discussed. The Town of Mamaroneck partnered with Honeywell to change their streetlights and perform other upgrades. Advantage: no up-front costs and fewer carbon emissions. Disadvantage: Honeywell captures the resultant savings. As part of this program, Honeywell has also included the Hommocks Rink in its energy-efficiency program for the Town.

Maria reported on fabric recycling: a way to dispose of very used and heavy fabrics (old towels, pads, blanket, sheets, in addition to clothing too distressed for the Salvation Army or Big Brothers and Sisters). A bin will be placed in either the A & P lot or next door at the Hess service station.

Plans for the community garden at Bub Walker Park involve fenced areas, raised beds, and rain barrels. These barrels will be filled by Village trucks as well as the clouds

above. There will be 5-10 plots in the garden, and our Committee reminded Rich that Barry Casterella should not use treated wood in making the raised beds, as the chemicals can leach out into the growing produce.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with our members very pleased that the Moveto website listed Mamaroneck as the most desirable town in NY State. Some of the criteria are: geographical beauty, population diversity, and active volunteers, such as those on our committee.

-- Submitted by Catherine Hiller