

Village of Mamaroneck, CFTE Minutes- September 15 2015

In attendance: Marc Karell, Monica Barach, Joan Heilman, Sara Richards, Martin Hain, Shonna Keagan, Maria Karsou, Kristen Carpenter, Greg Cutler (Assistant Village Planner) and David Finch, Trustee.

Marc Karell invited Committee to October 3rd charrette in Town of Mamaroneck. Among the issues that will be discussed are user based fees for garbage ("Pay As You Throw") to encourage recycling, sewer laterals and sewer usage based on water usage. Our Committee discussed the possibility of joining with the Town of Mamaroneck in promoting user-based trash fees. This policy is in place in Martha's Vineyard. Pay as you throw would be more costly for large families than for empty nesters.

Water Issues: Our expert, Phil Horner, was not in attendance and therefore discussion was postponed. Greg said there is new link on Village web site for Water quality report map. Committee should promote this site. Moving along with Arcadis.

Street light update: Marc reported: Village hired Lumen Light Solutions. A consulting firm, Bright Energy Services of White Plains, was hired, as well, to manage the job for the Village. Village is piggy backing on existing contract with New Rochelle. A 60% minimum reduction is expected in lighting expenses. The job is expected to be complete in about a year.

Fabric recycling: Joan reported. TransAmerica will install a fabric recycling bin on the Toy Box site. This is a private agreement with Toy Box and TB will collect the fees. TransAmerica will maintain the bin and pick up the fabric and the Village will promote the bin to the community. Shonna and Joan will coordinate the marketing on Facebook, The Patch, etc. TransAmerica can provide marketing material. Martin will design logo. The bin should be marketed in schools. Flyers in stores. The usable clothing will be donated to foreign countries, the residue recycled for other uses such as wiping rags and carpet pads. The purpose is to reduce waste and increase savings for the Village. Typically 85% of unused fabrics end up in the trash.

All manner of fabrics and other materials can be donated to the bin, including old shoes, belts, towels, sheets, drapes.

DPW Tour- Greg will schedule a tour with new Village engineer. We will discuss where to put a second fabric recycling bin. Hernani is new Village Engineer.

Quality of Life- Sara reported. Community garden has been launched in Bub Walker Park!! 12 plots but only one plot has greens due to late start (Collin Goldberg). Vines were taken off a Cherry tree to allow more sun. Parking is available on public property by salt shed across the street on Fenimore. Sara observed that there is much foot traffic through the Park as many people use the walking path. There should be a sign on Fenimore for the Community Garden. This will be discussed at the Way-finding committee meeting on September 24th. Maria will attend this meeting.

The committee discussed whether a system will be in place which will state-if someone does not use their plot, they will lose it. Sara will contact Collin to be point person for the Hispanic Resource Center where most of those who reserved plots belong. He should ask them if they plan to do fall planting. Garden will be promoted on Clean and Green Day and educational projects should take place at the garden on that day.

Resolution for Chickens: CFTE. Supports the idea to allow people to raise chickens. This item should be discussed at work session with Rich and then presented as a resolution. Monica will write-up a fact sheet listing the pros and cons. The statement will be sent to CFTE for feedback. Dave mentioned that the Village legal system is based on British common law which states that if something is not prohibited, it is allowed. Our law does not specifically state that chickens are prohibited, but we should create a resolution which states what is allowed and restrictions (such as, potentially, noise abatement and not letting them loose) should be stated clearly.

Soil erosion - Village is upgrading software which will allow for better reporting of soil erosion issues and enforcement of regulations for its controls. Environmental impact cost vs. cost of sending person to monitor each (small) home creates a situation which may not be financially feasible and can create higher taxes. Is this cost worth it? A stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) is required by a homeowner doing construction and is very costly. Village restrictions of 1,000 sf may be very expensive to homeowner. This is more restrictive than the NYSDEC requirement of 4,300 sf of land disturbed. What portion of village resources should be used? Dave said that selective enforcement has some impact. Greg suggested that homes which are located in flood zones should be emphasized in inspections. Dave stated that the conversation about the level of enforcement that makes sense has begun, but needs to be continued. While we understood the practicality of balancing environmental good with resources, it was noted that it may not be a good idea to “backtrack” environmentally. Marc stated that whatever policy for enforcement is decided by the Village it should result in a change to the law, so there is no confusion.

Release of crushed stone- tennis courts. Village is getting 3 quotes on automatic pumps. Very expensive to run pumps and revenues from the tennis courts are falling. There is discussion about long-term solutions to the release of crushed stone, such as moving the Sport Time facility. Although we believe that the red dust is not hazardous to fish or other wildlife, their release into the harbor violates NYSDEC law, and requires that a more reliable system be installed. Greg said that the installation of these pumps will satisfy the NYSDEC.

Marine Education Center Advisory Board: Dave provided background for the need for an Advisory Board for the Marine Education Center. Phil has previously offered to be on this Advisory Board. The Center received donations which have met the Center’s modest needs. Center needs additional funds to expand programs and to eventually build building. Village gave \$6,000 this year. What is long term plan? The Marine Education Center was very successfully used for camp program. Should the Center be part of the Rec Department since the camp was such a success? Probably not. It was acknowledged that it is great program but how should it be sustained. The building needs to go. So adhoc committee from community is being created. Dave thinks a public/ private partnership would serve its needs the best. Martin offered to volunteer and serve on the Advisory Board beginning in January. He will send resume to Sally.

Pesticide and Fertilizers: Early planning. We can't ban pesticides, but we can educate. Catherine Parker wants to meet with Joan to discuss the county-wide Great Healthy Lawn project that she is sponsoring. Parker says we may want to consider adopting it as an initiative within the Village to help spread awareness, something Rye's Sustainability Committee has done.

A newsletter similar to Larchmont's newsletter should be created and promoted to educate Village residents about our initiatives. What do we want to put in newsletter? What is plan and time of each event or target dates? Quarterly newsletter? Committee agreed that a starting point should be google calendar - what to publicize and when. We can't have a newsletter without having dates for upcoming events. Martin, Joan and Shonna can be on subcommittee and committee members will input information. We need to schedule events for entire year.. Martin will send out google calendar. Campaign against fertilizer runoff will be included I. Google docs.

Industrial area redevelopment: Greg Cutler reported on a meeting last week to discuss projected future planning for the area. Suggested scenarios presented:- mixed use along Waverly Ave.; pocket park recreational uses along the river; indoor recreational center near western end of area; closed loop concept; live/work concept; auto-related zone would move all body shops to near the DPW with buffer along Sheldrake River; storm water control projects along Hoyt where it often floods. Marc mentioned environmental issues of the quality of soil in the area that would have to be moved (given the area has been a long-time industrial area with organic solvents and gasoline and oils used) and flooding, as it is a low lying zone surrounded by the Sheldrake River. Open area markets. An advantage to these ideas is that the area could be used at different times throughout the day and evening, reducing crime and making it more attractive for businesses.

Dave said Rich, Leon and Norman went to Washington to meet with US Army Corps of Engineers.

Joan is updating recycling brochure. Leaf. Bagging in Washingtonville will be taking place. Shonna said doubling of Facebook followers. She wants to do Instagram as well.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 20th at 7:30