

MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK, NY COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2015, AT 7:30 P.M. AT COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVE.,
MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: Monica Barach (Co-Chair), Joan Heilman, Phil Horner, Marc Karell (Co-Chair), Shonna Keogan, Kristen Carpenter, Laura Holbrook, Sarah Richards, Greg Cutler, Assistant Planner, Richard Slingerland, Village Manager, Maria Karsou, David Finch, Liaison to BOT, Hugh Greechan

ABSENT: Cathy Hiller, Maria Karsou, Martin Hain

Minutes of March 21, 2015 meeting approved.

CLEAN and GREEN DAY PLANNING: Laura discussed the work ongoing including the tremendous effort from former Committee member Jean; expected to present and promote information are Save the Sound, Solarize Westchester (Monica), Community Garden (Cathy), Sheldrake Environmental Center. We'll have a table full of food also for which Shonna volunteered to assist. PR and marketing requested such as an email blast, flyer, and banners. Rich agreed to ensure a map of the parks would be available. Laura will lead the drawing of prizes by our sponsors. Shonna's neighbour is leading the Spanish language assistance for the event. Monica asked if the soccer league had been notified and Laura stated she had notified the Village Rec Dept. Sarah stated the event is promoted to all Girl Scout leaders in the area and will bring her troop to the event. Sheldrake is promoting the event in their communications. Phil stated the need for captains and volunteered to be one as well, to lead teams to the different parks for clean-up. The parks themselves are sometimes in very good condition however the areas bordering the parks are not such as the area on Fenimore near the Sheldrake. Rich will ask the Parks Dept to assist with the effort too. Joan stated the bridge near Gion Creek needs attention. Phil inquired if we should report things like invasive plants, and Rich replied that anything in need of fixing should be noted, and ideally accompanied by a photo. Joan inquired about our coordinating efforts with the Marine Education Center and Laura replied that they are very supportive of this event as we will be immediately next to their building and can encourage families to attend each other's activities. Sarah stated that in a past year one group was disappointed that the bags of trash they collected and disposed of were not picked up, resulting in racoons getting into the bags and redistributing the garbage around the area. Rich responded that the trash pick-up locations would be well-coordinated and noted on the maps for the volunteers to prevent such an issue from reoccurring. Additionally, 3 types of trash bags will be provided: black heavy weight bags for garbage, clear bags for recycling, and paper bags for vegetation as needed. Joan noted that any rakes used for the event by volunteers should be returned to the Harbor Island starting point.

EROSION CONTROL AT CONSTRUCTION SITES: Marc gave the floor to Stuart Tiekart who presented copies of the EPA standards regarding construction sites including tree protection, entrance stabilization, etc. Extensive discussion ensued including questions regarding the ownership of responsibility for upholding the EPA standards (Construction permit applicant is responsible), responsibility for monitoring the sites to ensure applicant is compliant (Village is responsible for monitoring), and actions taken when applicant is found to be out of compliance (Village takes a 3-step approach: first the Village asks the applicant to corrective action; second, an Order to Remedy is sent; third, a Notice of Violation is sent). This 3-step approach can be by-passed in the case of a gross violation whereby the applicant is immediately issued the Notice of Violation. Per Rich, some contractors are more cooperative than others. Inspectors are required to get MS4 training annually. The Village employs 1 Building Inspector, 1 Assistant Building Inspector, 1 Code Enforcement Officer. If a resident sees a violation they should call the Building Department. Stuart stated he has seen 10-12 sites in violation, and believes the Village has slipped in their standards. Marc asked if the Village can change process to ensure inspections are done before construction begins. Hugh stated that the engineer does not submit the inspection to DEC nor Village but rather holds it until requested to show. Marc asked if the Village could require submission of this documentation prior to starting. Clark Neuringer stated differences exist between municipalities within Westchester. The building department is called out to sites regularly and at those times could check the environmental controls and ask the applicant to submit their records. Clark stated clarity and order are needed to remedy the situation. Turnover in the Building Inspector office has not helped with consistency and that construction site control is vital to water quality. Rich stated that while the goal is to have 100% of construction sites inspected, some of the staff are more experienced than others. Stuart's main concern is the large sites where there is more of an imperative to act and Stuart believes we can do better in the Village. Hugh mentioned a stop work order can be given. Rich recommended a 2nd code

enforcer and 2nd asst. bldg inspector be considered. Hugh believes there are more than 20 construction projects ongoing. Nora Lucas questioned that when the "Notice to Remedy" goes to the contractor, how does the homeowner know? Hugh responded that the notice goes to the applicant, who in some cases is the homeowner, other times is the contractor. Rich stated the Village would continue to work on improving the situation. Kristen stated that photos should continue being sent where applicable. Shonna stated we can put plans on the website to assist homeowners to know the standards required for their construction. Hugh stated the plans are a guide and that common sense must prevail. Allison stated the importance of the homeowner to be educated on these issues and that an info pack could be provided by the Village Bldg. Dept. Marc stated the CFTE would follow up.

SPORTIME: Hugh discussed the finalization of plans; due to the silt issue, retrofitting the basins with material designed for the specific site [missed some detail here] will allow the water to be cleaned; DEC approved the plan; Village will accept bids to do the work; this will allow a significant improvement in water quality. Maintenance will be done by the Village if needed on the park (owned by the Village) and Sportime will be responsible for work done on their facility. Sportime is required to have an inspection one/year, and Rich confirmed that any maintenance needed for the Village catch basin will be the responsibility of the Village.

SOLARIZE: Monica stated over 150 inquiries have been made resulting in over 25 residential contracts in the combined area of Town of MMK, Larchmont, and Village of MMK. A Commercial event is held May 6 at 6pm. Nora inquired if any of the Village buildings would be utilizing solar and Rich responded that he would inquire, and that there is a cost. David stated we should be aware of what's on the agenda and see which properties are on the agenda so we can support their approval. Clark stated the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) should accept that solarisation is a positive change and recommended the Board of Trustees pass a resolution to remove the BAR authority on solar panels. Discussion ensued, and the outcome was agreement that we should question the BAR involvement in solarisation applications.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: David stated that Rich received approval for the garden during the last administration and would like to see wider interest from 5-10 people from the Village. Every member (100%) of the CFTE present raised their hand in support of the community garden. Rich stated the plan is to have 12 plots of 8x10 feet, rain barrels, and a 6 foot high fence in the area of Bub Walker park which Rich confirmed receives 8 hours of sun/day.

LIPIDS in the streams/rivers: Rich referenced the email notification the Village received regarding substance in the water during the prior week. Police, Fire, DEC, and Arcadis all worked together to confirm the substance is naturally occurring and likely to occur this time each year.

LEAF BAGGING: Monica stated it is time to introduce a law requiring leaf bagging; Rich described a pilot in Washingtonville, where the need is urgent (narrow streets very full of parked cars, close to the water) and therefore the leaves are a bigger issue than elsewhere in the Village. The Red Oak report was referenced as a source of advisement.

LEAF BLOWER BAN: Laura stated May 15 is the start of the leaf blower ban this year.

DEER: April 30 the Westchester County Center is hosting a symposium to discuss the problem and options.

FABRIC RECYCLING: Joan noted that the Town of Yorktown, which has a Recycling Coordinator, has instituted a program for curbside pickups of textiles (both usable items and rags) on its once-a-week bulk trash days. Fabrics must be packed in clear plastic bags available from the Town. They are sold to a commercial recycler for 10 cents per pound.

Fabrics may also be left in receptacles at the Town Yard (Recycling Center) and at five locations on Town property.

Meanwhile, in order to reduce the number of collection boxes located on private property (because "so many of them are unsightly"), property owners must obtain special permits.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.