

## **2/17/2015 Village of Mamaroneck CFTE Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Martin Hain, Phil Horner, Marc Karell, Monica Barach, Kristin Carpenter, Maria Karsou, Joan Heilman

Representing Village Administration: Greg Cutler

Representing Village Board of Trustees: David Finch

Guest: Catherine Parker, County Legislator

### **Harbor Island Cleanup Day**

—Will be April 25th/ Rain Date the 26th

—Talked to Rich about moving location and renaming to incorporate Green Day, no answer as yet.

—Sample Agenda:

- 1) Clean Up in the morning
- 2) Lunch for Volunteers
- 3) Workshops
- 4) Finish up by 1:30-2:00PM

—Make signage and brochure by Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>

—Sara contacting sponsors (Girl Scouts, Schools, etc.) and needs help

—March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting scheduled with Rich

—Ideas:

- 1) Sewer plant tours
- 2) Raffle for Volunteers

—Should have people go out to locate hot spots (Highway on/off ramps, etc) a week prior to the event

—Possibly include the launch of the Community Garden with a raffle for plots and a table with info.

—Marketing & Design done by Village – working on plan for Email/Social Media/etc. - Laura Holberg

### **Release of crushed stone in Harbor Island Park (tennis courts)**

—New short-term plan needs to be submitted, as requested by NYSDEC

—Red clay an issue

## **Solarize Westchester**

- About 100 people attended opening ceremony – very successful
- Next event March 4<sup>th</sup> – 7-8:30PM at MMK Library
- Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – 137 Elliot Ave Home Tour
- See Solarize Larchmont-Mamaroneck Website

## **Community Gardens**

- Some trustees not supportive
- Worried about parameters not fully defined, such as:
  - 1) Is insurance needed? If so, what and how much?
  - 2) Needs that fall under administrative guidelines and those that don't have not been defined.
- Work with Rich to resolve
- Approved last April for Fall planting, but it didn't happen
- Parks Dept. will own management
- Rules & Responsibilities breakdown needed
- Point person TBD
- Mamaroneck Ave. School has had success – Ali Margosis (sp?)

## **Sale of land to Mamaroneck Beach & Yacht**

- Land was sold for \$10K - Village was never contacted prior to sale
- Lawsuit has begun against it – Dan Natchez
- At some point the Village may join suit to show support
- CTFE would be the ones to petition the board if opportunity presents itself
- Turning land in to parking lot
- Land has been filled in gradually

## **Recycling**

- No progress on Fabric Recycling
- Board wants to know:
  - 1) Why we're not publicizing that the existing receptacles are not enough

- 2) Why village needs to give up revenue of parking spaces
- Look into organizations that already do current bins to see if they could sort
  - Board not convinced it will make a difference
  - In White Plains, the bin is inside their recycling center
  - Could we put them next to existing donation bins?
  - How much revenue would be generated by each bin?
  - Need to meet with Rich

## Deer Issue

- Catherine Parker, Westchester County Legislator representing our area, joined us for a conversation about the deer issue
- It is recommended that the Village create a plan to first assess the actual extent of the deer problem and then develop a separate plan for mitigation based on those results.

—Below are notes from the Feb 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at the county offices in White Plains; compiled by Alison Stabile

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On Feb 10th, Catherine Parker co-chaired an informative session about deer overpopulation and control at the County offices in White Plains, with fellow legislator, Peter Harckham. The meeting was attended by members of the public: including residents and Trustee Leon Potok from the Village of Mamaroneck, Rye residents, and the Mayor of Harrison among others.

The two legislators took testimony from several witnesses, including: **John Baker**, the county's deer specialist and its Director of Conservation for the Westchester County Department of Parks; **Mayor Kate Supron** of Cayuga Heights; and **Dan Lemons**, a biologist from Hastings-on-Hudson, who has assisted in the deer contraception program there.

The deer problem has been studied in New York State and Westchester County for some time. Deer programs have been studied or implemented since 1998 in Cayuga Heights, NY and since 2008 by Mr. Baker of Westchester County. Everyone agreed that a regional approach is best.

Mayor Kate Supron, of Cayuga Heights, said that the effort cannot be top down, it has to be a bottom up approach, a regional approach, with a lot of input from and understanding by local residents. We have to look at the results available to us, and we have to look long term. This cannot be a short term activity but a long-term commitment of much more than three years or the deer will just come back. Cayuga Heights decided to start with surgical sterilization but has approved culling if necessary. It has had to defend two lawsuits to get permission to cull and sterilize, and she points out that while a vocal minority opposes deer culling, a silent majority has re-elected all of the elected officials who approved it. All meetings, including deer committee meetings, were and are held in open sessions. The board approved a combination of lethal control and sterilization, and started with sterilization. They have not yet started a lethal culling.

The Cayuga website is available to the community to provide a wealth of documentation and information. Here is the link to the deer control page of the Cayuga Heights village website:

<http://www.cayuga-heights.ny.us/deer.html>

**The goal is forest and habitat restoration, and maintaining a healthy balance of deer population relative to other wild life, and to humans.**

The county and local municipalities must consider:

**1) Relocation of deer is not legal in NY State:**

- disease is transmitted from one population to another
- survival rate of deer is low, and trauma rate is high according to State Wildlife Biologist

**2) Deer overpopulation is having a negative impact on other wildlife:**

- deforestation has become a major concern, studies have shown zero new growth of plant life like hostas, oaks and maples in some areas where deer feed
- habitat for song birds and other wildlife, as well as the natural ecosystem, has been destroyed by deer

- loss of bio-diversity is alarming, according to information from Armonk and elsewhere.
- there was discussion about the deer population with respect to the presence of predators. John Baker said he is not aware of a change in the presence of natural predators in our region. A comment was made that even if natural predators, such as coyotes, *were* introduced into our environment, this would not adequately control the deer over-population, and would cause further health and safety concerns.

### **3) Deer overpopulation is a health and safety hazard to humans**

- Lyme disease: Mayor Supron referred to a recent 13- year-longitudinal study that has shown the incidence of Lyme disease in humans drops dramatically when you achieve an appropriate deer population per square mile.
- traffic accidents: In 2011, there were about 35,000 car accidents with 4 known fatalities in New York State.
- financial costs and implications exist on numerous levels

**4) Success has been realized upstate in a program** run by the town of Cayuga Heights, using surgical sterilizations, called oophorectomies, that remove the ovaries of female deer. The Cayuga Heights surgical sterilization program is run and paid for out of cash drawn from cash capital reserves by that municipality, which is in an area with about 125 deer per square mile.

**5) The magic number appears to be a minimum of 95%, but preferably 98% sterilization** rate of does, according to Mayor Supron, before there is a reduction in the deer population in an area. Monitoring is still required. Cayuga Heights has achieved that number, mostly by surgically sterilizing so many deer, but perhaps in part because of the reduction of deer in bordering communities by hunters (hunting is legal up there).

Cayuga Heights hired the White Buffalo Company to do the oophorectomies. In 2012, it cost the town \$150,000 to capture and operate on 137 does, helping them accomplish that 98% sterilization rate.

**6) Hastings is currently piloting (and paying for) a program** using an immunization technique to sterilize the deer, first by tranquilizing

them and then tagging and injecting them.

There are issues that are still unknown re: having to re-immunize the does every 18-24 months. Last year they tagged and administered the drug to 8 does for an average cost of \$1,500 per doe, according to Mr. Lemons, but the cost per doe will go down if they tag the 40 to 50 does they hope to tag this season. They know sterilization works better in contained areas, like an island, but think it a worthwhile experiment. They estimate about 140 to 150 deer live in 2 square miles in Hastings.

Mayor Supron pointed out to Mr. Lemons that the state probably will not approve a program where deer are not re-tagged each time they are treated, and that it will be harder to re-dart does who have already been darted once. According to Mayor Supron, the deer must be re-tagged each time drugs are administered. This is due to regulations for safety in the event of human consumption.

**7) The approach to controlling deer above I-287 will be very different than the approach below I-287.** John Baker said deer management is a regional issue that cannot be handled alone by any municipality. In upper Westchester, culling by 60 core licensed bow hunters, hunting five days a week, in 7 county parks, has yielded 525 dead deer since 2009, according to Mr. Baker. This approach obviously cannot be used in our area. Because the Marshlands is a county park, Westchester County can look into expanding its existing county parks deer management program into Rye. Mr. Baker indicated that he plans to propose a cost effective, and safe program, run by the county utilizing 2 or 3 very skilled bow hunters, hunting just one day a week at the Marshlands next winter. What needs to be understood is whether this will have any bearing on Mamaroneck? What actions may need to be undertaken where the county program doesn't apply?

**8) Lyme Disease can be drastically reduced** if the deer population is reduced to about 5 or 10 deer per square mile, according to two studies cited by Mayor Supron. She said they show a precipitous drop to almost zero new cases of Lyme disease. They are longitudinal studies that people in Cayuga Heights recently found and are posted on the website.

One thirteen year study done in Connecticut is the first attachment

posted on the website: <http://www.cayuga-heights.ny.us/doc/2014Deertickabundance.pdf>

**and** the second attachment on the website is to a three-year study in Indiana <http://www.cayuga-heights.ny.us/doc/2014PotentialSentinel.pdf>

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## **TOD Project**

—Amendments

- 1) Change contribution from 10% to 15%
- 2) Modify flood mitigation language

—HTZMC doesn't like TOD, want to revoke and re-do

—Flaw in TOD; First floor Retail spaces at risk

—Wait for Army Corps of Engineers plan to be approved

—Inadequate Environmental Survey question

- 1) Other firms contacted to conduct surveys
- 2) Looked at study and it would be wasting money to re-do; nothing they could do that hasn't already been done
- 3) May hire firm to present this point

—What's CTFE role?

- 1) Flooding/Water Mandate
- 2) Infrastructure Support
- 3) Pay attention to details

## **Way-Finding Committee**

—Presentations to choose 1 of 2 firms – 2/19 – 7PM in Court Room, Maria Karsou is our representative on this committee

## **Sub-Committees**

—Water

- 1) Met a few weeks ago about testing/reports analysis and reconciliation
- 2) Public information – see Cathy Desmond (Save the Sound) – outlet for Green Community PR
- 3) Data board at Marine Center for awareness

#### 4) Part of Clean Up Day

##### —Quality of Life

- 1) Healthy Backyard Project Pledge – Dr. Diane Lewis
  - a. Homeowners sign pledge to not use pesticides or chemicals
  - b. Grants for projects – [info@tghyp.com](mailto:info@tghyp.com) - 914.391.6768 – Diane Lewis, MD

##### —Energy/GHG

- 1) LED lights for Street Lights
  - a. Try to tack on to another contract with a surrounding municipality

##### —Recycling

- 1) County plastic bag ban
  - a. Meeting Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - b. Extended polystyrene portion
  - c. Would be surprised if done by end of year because other communities are behind on it

##### —Outreach

- 1) #6 Oil Ban will be voted out of committee soon
- 2) The cancelled drop-off days will be difficult to re-instate after they've been cut.
- 3) Have to go to Valhalla to drop-off

**Objection to minutes by Phil Horner.**