

Village of Mamaroneck – Committee for the Environment Meeting Minutes – FINAL
01/21/15

Attending: Phil Horner, Marc Karell, Sarah Richards, Maria Karsou, Laura Holbrook, Joan Heilman, Kristen Carpenter, Monica Barach, Cathy Hiller, Jean Peron, Village Planner Greg Cutler, Trustee Liaison: Dave Finch
Absent: Shonna Keogan, Martin Hain
Visiting: Fred Longacre, Pam Michaels

December Minutes: Approved.

Agenda items:

Harbor Island Conservancy. Mr. Fred Longacre, who heads the Harbor Island Conservancy, gave an overview of the beginnings and mission of the conservancy. Major projects have included installation of the playground, signage, and gardens. They have no current plans to expand beyond Harbor Island, nor to add community gardens to the park. The Harbor Island Conservancy has a very strong working relationship with the Village Manager (Richard Slingerland) and the Village Parks Foreman (Barry Costello). CFTE and the conservancy may work together on the Harbor Island Clean-Up. It was agreed that the CFTE should keep the conservancy informed about water quality issues around Harbor Island. Mr. Longacre's email is F_Longacre@hotmail.com.

Harbor Island Clean-Up. This year's Harbor Island Clean-Up is scheduled for April 25, 9:00-11:00 AM. Potential groups to approach about participating include Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, members of Little League, Sheldrake. Possible activities in addition to cleaning up: launch of Community Garden at Bub Walker Park, composting demonstration, leaf mulching presentation, and native plant presentation.

Solarize Westchester. The new non-profit group Sustainable Westchester, of which VOM is a member, will shortly begin its first project, Solarize Westchester. Under this program, a vetted vendor of solar panels has been given exclusivity to sell solar PV panels at a guaranteed low price and with expedited permitting (a decision by the Building Dept. and Architectural Board within 2 weeks) and reduced fees. The program will be launched with the community on February 8, 2:00 – 3:30 PM at Tequila Sunrise in Larchmont. The more people who sign up, the lower the cost will be. The vendor will be present and demonstrations and educational material about solar PV will be distributed. They will be able to do a quick analysis at the event with Google Earth as to whether a given address is a potential candidate for solar panels (shading of roof).

Green Steps Expo. The Green Steps Expo will be held on March 22 at the Larchmont Temple, and will educate the community on how to “green” your house and lifestyle. The villages of Larchmont and Mamaroneck are sponsors of the Expo. The CFTE has been asked to help get the word out about this event.

Recycling. It was noted that there has been no visible action on the issue of overflowing bins and tight space at the recycling center. We need to set some deadline with the Village for addressing the issue. With regard to installing a fabric recycling bin in the Tompkins parking lot, Richard

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Slingerland has said that it is up to the Board to approve. However, to our knowledge, the Board has approved it. Joan will follow up with Rich to allow the vendor to install the bin.

In order to promote leaf mulching, the CFTE would like to get a list of landscapers in the area and send them information about the topic. However the landscaper association would not share that list so we should give the association the letter for them to distribute to their members. Monica will try to find out how much money the Village saved with mulching this year.

Joan stated that new recycling brochures are being prepared, and that Rich is getting software to do the translation for the Spanish version.

Joan spoke with Tony and Rich about the use of road salt during winter snow events. They use brine first to prevent snow from sticking and then they use rock salt. She checked with Hastings and Rye, and they just use rock salt.

Quality of Life. Sarah will be working on the Community Garden at Bub Walker Park, located along I-95 between Fenimore and Plaza. Pam Michaels was on the Larchmont Mamaroneck Coastal Zone Committee and is familiar with native plants. Pam's email is psmiche@gmail.com. Regarding biking in Mamaroneck and Larchmont, our community is not bike-friendly. Laura will work with Steven Moser on potential improvements to biking.

Energy. Marc will send the Energy Plan to Rich Slingerland tomorrow, with seven ideas to improve the Village's energy efficiency. Three key possibilities are to (1) install more efficient streetlights (i.e., LED bulbs), (2) install occupancy sensors in the Village buildings, and (3) improve the windows, some of which are drafty.

Water Quality. Regarding the EPA citation, Phil noted that the Village issues quarterly reports and will give copies of these to the CFTE.

Regarding lateral sewer lines, David Finch said there was active discussion of this issue at the recent Board meeting. Arcadis is lining the main lines, but laterals are still a problem and the Board discussed various approaches to bring homeowners into the process. Three possible approaches could be (1) a sewer use fee as add on to Village tax based on a home's water bill, with onus on the homeowners to get laterals repaired, (2) an opt-out insurance plan for homeowners at about \$8/month, or (3) have the Village repair and maintain laterals using money from the sewer use fee mentioned in Option1.

Save the Sound held a Public Forum on December 3 that was fairly well attended. Sarah and Phil met with Tracy Brown of Save the Sound about recommendations to make to the Board. They discussed laterals, hot spots, and potential sources of funding to address water quality issues. Ms. Brown made a presentation to the Board on January 20. Ms. Brown also wrote a letter to the CFTE with some broader proposals. The Water Committee will look at her letter to see what actions could be taken.

Deer Issue. George Latimer has circulated the letter he sent to Joseph Martens. Our concern is that the deer issue will “flitter and flop” because of the challenge: we are not permitted to relocate the deer, sterilization is very expensive, and hunting will be opposed. It was agreed the CFTE should look further into the issue, including what other municipalities are doing, and come up with a recommendation.

Transportation-Oriented Development (TOD) Project. Members of the CFTE have heard that people feel the environmental impact of the TOD was not adequately considered. One extreme approach to dealing with opposition would be to revoke the TOD. A second approach would be to identify areas of the TOD that are insufficient and amend it. For example, the Flood Mitigation Committee has additions to the TOD. David Finch notes that consultants have reviewed the survey work done so far and say there is nothing more to add to it. The research has been done on the aquifer and is on the Village website. The Village needs to get the public to look at the information on the website. The TOD is a zoning law, but not a scheduled redevelopment.

Crushed Stone from tennis courts at Harbor Island. DEC’s reaction to the letter from the Village was that sand bags are not an acceptable solution, but that retention pond/swales would be OK. Since the Village Engineer has left, a consulting engineer is working on the plan to be submitted at the end of the month.

Way Finding. The Village is putting in multi-space parking meters. The consultant’s report said the Village must have good signage for the system to work successfully. In addition, better signage is needed for directing visitors (e.g., to Emelin Theater or parks), and signage is something the public will notice. One representative from each of the Village committees is needed for input.

Taylor’s Lane Lot. This lot is a Brownfield property that has been capped. It backs up on river and wetlands. Runoff from the Toyota dealership’s lot runs onto that lot. CFTE should consider and recommend possible future uses of this property.

Meeting adjourned. Next CFTE meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015.