

Minutes: VoM Committee for the Environment Meeting
Date: December 15, 2015
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Court House
Attendees: M. Barach, M. Karell, J. Heilman, D. Styler, D. Finch, M. Hain, C. Goldberg, P. Horner, M. Karsou, S. Richards

1. Minutes from September meeting approved
2. CFTE composition for next year: We bid farewell to J. Heilman and S. Keogan who have completed their terms. Very grateful for their contributions to the Village!
3. Sub-committees:
 - Water: P. Horner discussed Save the Sound lawsuit against municipalities due to water pollution readings; D. Styler requested to be added to the committee; discussed how to better communicate the work being done and the VoM webpage reporting site
 - Energy/GHGs: ACTION G. Cutler to provide status on the street light upgrade
 - Recycling: Visit to DPW Facility and Recycling Center was scheduled for January 8; Congrats on the launch of the fabric recycling center which is receiving publicity in the Mamaroneck and Rye Neck newsletters; Still hoping to have Recycling brochure translated into Spanish for next year
 - Quality of Life: Community garden is up and running; ACTION Martin and Sarah to work together on signage; Opportunity to gather new participants at the next Clean and Green event;
 - 2016 Clean and Green event proposed date = Saturday April 30
 - Request pre-event scouting of areas needing clean-up (P. Horner and others)
 - Publicity needed – new signage with date and sponsor updates, notices to the schools and churches (M. Hain, L. Holbrook, others)
 - Need updated letter from Rich officially requesting support
 - Need someone to solicit business donations (Sarah to ask if Jean would like to be involved)
 - Scope of the event – in addition to the “Clean”, how many tables/info stations should we have?
 - Rich to request help from the Park Department and the DPW for picking up bags of trash at the planned sites
 - Greg to supply map of park areas for teams
 - Will require many “team captains” to lead groups to the specific parks for clean up
 - Outreach: Newsletter still needed
4. Meetings scheduled for January 12 and 16 for the Larchmont Committee and their April 10 ecological gardening event
5. Early planning for 2016 campaign against fertilizer and pesticide runoff into Sound
6. Enforcement of erosion/sediment control rules at various construction sites: 3 people are now trained employees as of last month are certified and new reporting software is being launched.
7. NYSDEC NOV - release of crushed stone in Harbor Island Park (tennis courts) – short-term solution; Village is trying to find a supplier that meets the requirements for pumps at a cost that is within budget
8. Leaf mulching campaign; outreach to landscapers will be part of the joint Larchmont/MMK event
9. Complete Streets workshop attended by M. Barach
 - This is a concept to make transportation within a village more efficient, such as encouraging walking and biking, and discouraging driving in the center of a village.
 - Monica listed a number of ideas that other villages have taken on from such Complete Street programs, such as free trolleys. She envisioned a free trolley going up and down Halstead Ave.

and Mamaroneck Ave. to the train station, so there are fewer cars driving down those roads dropping off spouses, slowing down traffic and emitting more pollutants. Dave Finch stated that the Village looked into a trolley years ago, but concluded it was too expensive to maintain (insurance).

- Monica mentioned there are grants available under this program to allow the Village to perform feasibility studies of various ideas pertaining to our Village, and all agreed this made sense.

10. Noise reduction rules for leaf blowers discussed

- M. Karell described the proposed rule that the unincorporated Town of Mamaroneck is considering for leaf blowers during the period it is allowed to operate each year.
- The law would go into effect 3 years after passage (to give landscapers and home owners time to obtain new equipment), and would require use of leaf blowers only if they have an appropriate sticker that it meets 65 decibels via a NIOSH test at 50 feet. No sound meters for the police. They look for the sticker and if not there, they give a ticket.
- The Town is considering this law; their Legal is currently reviewing it. D. Finch stated that he liked the idea of the law in general, but would like to see how it proceeds in the Town (its legal review, for example) before moving forward with a similar law here.