

Committee for the Environment Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2016

Present: Kristen Carpenter, Colin Goldberg, David Styler, Trustee Dave Finch.

Guest: State Senator George Latimer

1. Taylor's Lane Brownfield Site: The Committee discussed potential future actions including the hiring of an outside consultant to give qualified recommendations to the Board of Trustees on its future use. The Village has applied for a grant to assist with the expense. Given the restrictions inherent in any actions, including the risk of disturbance to the underlying impermeable cap, lack of parking space, and neighborhood opposition, the Committee also affirmed its resolution recommending a multi-use site with plantings of native flowers and grasses, passive recreation activities, including a walking/jogging path, and a dog run.

2. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Mitigation Project: The Committee heard from Trustee Finch about the last HCZMC meeting at which the Commission maintained it has insufficient information about what ACE is doing to determine project consistency with the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). Its determination was that the project is potentially consistent, outlining specifically the items for which more satisfactory information would be needed to achieve consistency. The Committee will hear more from member Phil Horner when he returns in September.

3. Storm Water Inflow & Infiltration: The Committee revisited the Village I&I issue. The Committee first wished to congratulate Assistant Village Planner Gregory Cutler, Village Engineer Hernane DeAlmeida, and Assistant Village Manager Daniel Sarnoff, as well as Senator Latimer, on applying for and securing a \$250,000 State of New York Clean Water Grant that will be applied to the Village's sewer pipe relining and replacement project. Sen. Latimer and Trustee Finch reviewed ideas to mitigate the problem of broken and cracked privately owned sewer laterals contributing to I&I: the State setting up a fund for people to access who can't afford to repair their sewer laterals; the hiring of approved and certified plumbing companies, who, because of the potentially large volume of work, could reduce their profit margin for each house, lowering individual homeowner costs; determining the financial threshold for residents with Enhanced Star tax reductions to pay for work done on their laterals; and letting the Courts mandate the actions needed to remediate the situation. Noting this is not just a Village issue, Sen. Latimer described the complexities of obtaining public money to help fix the problem. The Committee will continue to bring this issue to the attention of the BOT.

4. Community Garden: CFTE member Colin Goldberg reported on the ongoing success of the community garden. With all 12 plots in use this year, he suggested it might be time to add more plots to the Garden. Colin also suggested that a public event be held at the Garden at the end of harvest season. The Committee proposed the Garden's success be publicized, perhaps by inviting a local newspaper to shoot photos of residents' garden plots along with some of the gardeners themselves. The Committee will pursue this idea shortly.

5. Recycling: Colin also proposed to initiate a curbside pick-up, organic waste recycling project, perhaps as part of a county-wide movement, which could deliver both financial and environmental benefits to the Village and other participating municipalities. The Committee assigned Colin to find out more and report back on this proposal.

6. Solar Paneling on Village-Owned Structures: Trustee Finch noted that the EMS headquarters was being re-roofed and suggested this was a good time to investigate whether solar paneling could be installed at the same time to save energy costs. This led to the idea that the Village could consider installing solar panels on all Village-owned structures. The Committee strongly endorsed this idea and tasked members to research this proposal.

7. Mosquito Spraying: Last, the Committee returned to the issue of notification to residents of times and places spraying is performed and identification of what type of insecticide is being employed. Trustee Finch noted that the Village should post a schedule of the spraying along with a description of the chemical agent and a phone number on its website, as well as a link to the NYS website that residents could access for more information. Finch also suggested that the Village begin to notify affected households directly by mail. The Committee discussed this and will bring these proposals to the BOT.