

Committee for the Environment

Meeting Minutes for June 21, 2016

Present: Monica Barach; Kristen Carpenter; Phil Horner; Colin Goldberg; Sarah Richards; David Styler; Dave Finch, Trustee; Hernane De Almeida, Village Engineer; Greg Cutler, Assistant Village Planner; Richard Slingerland, Village Manager; and Tony Gelber, Chair, Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee

1. Village Engineer Hernane De Almeida presented an overview of MS4 work. First, he covered IDDE monitoring, including tests of outfalls for illicit discharges, noting the goal of checking 100% of outfalls within a five-year period. Among other issues, of significant concern is the Otter Creek neighborhood due to its high number of septic tanks. Also noted was the responsibility of Harrison and Rye to conduct monitoring under their MS4 programs.

2. Mr. De Almeida also reported on progress of I&I work. He noted that over one-third of Village storm water pipes have been recast with cast-in-place pipes, and discussed the process of slip lining pipes. The concern over how to address repair and replacement of leaky sewer laterals was revisited, with some suggestions for this problem. One solution could be seeking to contract with one vendor for the Village, which could help reduce the cost to individual homeowners of repairing or replacing their laterals.

3. The Committee voted to endorse a Resolution recognizing that the Village has made a greater effort for comment and data collection under Municipity 5 and encouraging the Village to continue in this manner.

4. FMAC Chair Tony Gelber addressed the Committee about the Army Corps of Engineers' Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers Flood Risk Management Project. He informed the Committee of the June 6 resubmittal of the ACE consistency determination to the New York Department of State, which will be reviewed by the Harbor and Coastal Zone Management Commission in their July 20th meeting. Mr. Gelber explained some of the details of the plan as it now stands, noting the cost/benefit approach ACE uses in determining how the project will be conceived and built.

Mr. Gelber encouraged the FMAC and the CFTE to work together to develop ideas that could be implemented as part of the ACE plan, and to focus on a larger watershed management perspective. Some of these ideas could be to improve public access to the rivers that the ACE design would help implement, identify and enhance habitats of native aquatic and non-aquatic species, and consider what other benefits the Village can realize from this project. Mr. Gelber invited the CFTE to attend the next FMAC meeting to discuss these issues.

5. The Committee voted to approve a Resolution that will be sent to the Board of Trustees stating that the Taylor's Lane brownfield be repurposed to include a dog run, introduction of native plant species with explanatory signage, and passive recreation such as walking or jogging paths made from wood chips, exercise stations, and a disc golf course.

Mr. Slingerland noted that due to ponding in the upper two feet of earth above the cap, the Village would begin mowing and re-grading the property to eliminate this problem.

6. Finally, the Committee thanked Ms. Monica Barach, who is resigning from the CFTE, for all of her service and commitment to the Committee and to the Village.