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MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK, NY COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEETING, JANUARY 24, 2017, AT 7:30 P.M. AT COURTROOM, 169 MT. PLEASANT AVE., MAMARONECK, NY 10543

PRESENT: David Styler (Co-Chair), Martin Hain (Co-Chair), Phil Horner, Marc Karell, Kristen Carpenter, Maria Karsou, Colin Goldberg, Ellen Silver, Jodi Stern, Greg Cutler (Assistant Village Planner), Victor Tafur (Liaison to BOT), Hernane De Almeida (Village Engineer)

Minutes of December 20, 2016 meeting approved.

STORMWATER: Hernane discussed his review of the current Village and NY State stormwater code. NY State has rules for stormwater runoff requirements for properties >5 acres and 1-5 acres, but leaves it to the municipalities for properties under 1 acre in size.

Hernane intends to make recommendations to revamp the Village code (for properties under 1 acre). His intended emphasis is to emphasize water quality over water quantity if at all possible. Also, to make the codes more reader-friendly.

Hernane would like to add a new permit for new connections, such as a sump pump pumping excess water right into a catch basin of the stormwater system. This is done so that the Village knows and can keep track. It is not meant as punitive; the permit fees would be low.

Hernane would also like to modify the code to better attain no net increase in impervious surfaces in the Village. More impervious surface means less space for water to be held “permanently” (by soil) or temporarily until the end of a rain event (tank). New construction or modifications to properties would need to demonstrate this. There would be grandfathering for modifications of existing impervious surfaces.

Hernane hopes to have a draft version for the Village attorney to review in a few weeks. Once the draft code is finalized, the Village hopes to do outreach to the public through CFTE.

OUTREACH. Stormwater is a critical issue in the Village. The Village hopes to follow up the new code with outreach aimed at students at schools. Children have been observed throwing “stuff” in catch basins, thinking it is a legitimate place to put garbage and not realizing it blocks flow and contaminates a stream going right to the Sound. Plus, children can educate their parents. In addition, Hernane has offered to put together in 2 months a PowerPoint presentation for CFTE and potentially for the public with basic educational material about water, drinking water, sanitary, and stormwater, and the importance of conservation and minimizing stormwater.

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LATERALS. The Consent Order with the federal EPA has been satisfied. Several illegal hook-ups and breaks in the sanitary and stormwater sewer pipes have been found and repaired, the E. coli levels in our rivers have been reduced from their peak levels, but remain above standards. The other potential source is leakage of raw sewage from laterals, the pipes from people's properties. These belong to the individual building owners and the Village cannot go in and inspect and repair. The Village is researching ways it can get people to investigate and, if need be, repair their laterals (since it does impact our rivers and the Sound) without it being too expensive or onerous for residents. The Village is considering changing the law mandating inspection and repair of laterals upon sale of a building. Another idea is to mandate inspection every 5 or 10 years. Could the Village offer insurance to buttress the cost of repairing or replacing laterals (could be up to \$10,000)? Could the Village offer experienced contractors to residents? There was a suggestion to meet with Rich Slingerland about the issue.

MS4 REPORT. Village submits an annual MS4 report to NY State. It reports on Village efforts in 6 areas, including water quality, efforts to reduce stormwater quantity, catch basin cleaning, construction efforts that may impact waterways, long-term stormwater treatment (i.e., retention wells), and public outreach.

WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The Village and its Board of Trustees would like to set up a Water Quality Advisory Committee with representatives from different committees and entities, including one from CFTE. The goal of this Committee would be to advise on LWRP issues and to develop a draft water management assessment and improvement plan. It was voted that Phil would represent CFTE on this Committee, and he accepted. Katherine Desmond may be a co-representative of CFTE.

CFTE MATTERS.

1. Mission Statement. Our mission statement as it appears on our webpage is potentially obsolete. David will write a new draft version for CFTE to review.
2. Handbook. There was a suggestion to create a CFTE Handbook with contact information, the mission statement, upcoming events, and basic information on what the public can do (stormwater minimization, mulching leaves, etc.).
3. Youth Environmental Club. There was a suggestion to perform outreach by developing a local youth environmental club. The thought was to start off with Hommocks Middle School, which already has an environmental club.
4. Presentations. It was discussed that the CFTE would like to sponsor outreach events open to the public on a quarterly basis. The upcoming Clean & Green event is one of them. Educational seminars on organic (pesticide-free) gardening, composting, etc. are other ideas. We need proper budget for this and people willing to find appropriate speakers and venues. We should use

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the opportunity to develop joint programs with other Village committees (Flood, Tree, etc.) and other CFTEs (Town of Mmk, Larchmont, Rye, etc.)

5. Budget. Trustee Tafur will look into what the CFTE budget is for 2017.

SUB-COMMITTEES. We then considered re-forming our sub-committees that CFTE used to have in order that smaller teams can focus on specific issues of interest. It was suggested we not use the term “sub-committee”, but “team” instead.

WATER TEAM: Headed by Phil. Additional members: Katherine Desmond, Kristin, Jodi. Goal of this team is self-descriptive – to be aware and advise on the many matters involving water that impact the Village, given our rivers and the Sound.

PARKS & GARDEN TEAM: Headed by Colin. Additional member: David. Goals of this team are to oversee our community garden, to provide oversight for wildflower plantings, and to monitor any developments concerning how Village residents can compost their food and organic waste. The Team is working toward overseeing a potential wildflower planting at the Taylors Lane soil treatment site.

RECYCLING: Headed by Maria. Additional member: Ellen. Goals of this team are to oversee the new textile recycling box at the Toy Box store and to see how the Village can improve the user-friendliness of our current Recycling facility.

SUSTAINABILITY: Headed by Marc. No additional members (yet). Goals are to continue the efforts for energy conservation of Village activities (recent project: replacement of street lights with LED bulbs), reduce carbon footprint, make Village more walkable/bikeable, reduce noise pollution, and other sustainability goals and metrics. Marc will develop a mission statement.

MARKETING/OUTREACH: Headed by Martin. No additional members (yet). Main goal is to improve educational and outreach opportunities concerning the importance of the environment and behaviors which would lessen impacts and make our Village more liveable. This team would like to have the independence to send out its own e-blasts without prior approval of Village.

CLEAN & GREEN EVENT. Little has been done to prepare for our annual Clean & Green event. The tentative date was set for Saturday morning, April 22. However, Dan Natchez said that that time is expected to be high tide, which is not a good condition for clean-up of local rivers. It was felt that an afternoon event will not draw as many people. Perhaps the following Saturday morning may work. The date will be decided before the next CFTE meeting, and preparations will stem from that.

The meeting was adjourned about 10:15pm.