

Meeting Minutes

Village of Mamaroneck Committee for the Environment (CFTE)
Held in Regatta Conference Room, 123 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck
Thursday, September 20, 2018

Start Time: 7:40 PM

End Time: 9:35 PM

Present: Ellen Silver (Chair), Katherine Desmond, Colin Goldberg, Greg Cutler (Village Planner), Jeff DeToro, David Freeman, Dave Finch, Christi Young (new member), Leon Potok (Trustee and Liaison to Village Board)

Not Present: Marc Karell, Maria Karsou, Martin Hain, Victor Tafur (Trustee), David Styler

Ellen called the meeting to order and introductions were made for the benefit of new board member Christi Young. Ellen had not received July minutes from Martin and he was not present, so July minutes could not be approved.

The group spent a few minutes discussing the desired procedure for obtaining volunteer service hours letters from the Village. Leon requested that the committee chair email the Village secretary the names, dates, and details of service events so that she can generate form letters for volunteers that have provided community service for those events. Ellen recently forwarded a draft of the form letter to the secretary for review (Leon will follow up with her).

Recycling Subcommittee

Leon provided some statistics on the progress of the Village's food waste recycling program. There was a 72% increase in recycled tonnage (0.55 to 0.95) between July and August. For comparison, Larchmont/Town of Mamaroneck averages approximately 4.5 tons/month and Scarsdale averages about 20 tons/month of recycled food waste. To date, the Village has sold 54 food waste kits, 6 countertop caddies, and 1 garage tote. Hernane (Village Engineer) has been talking with the developers of a new apartment complex in the Village about offering food waste pickup within the building for residents.

Many suggestions were made about how to expand and promote the program. There seemed to be a consensus about trying to combine data collection and promotional

efforts with Larchmont/Town of Mamaroneck to reduce effort overlap. Ellen would like to ask Karen Khor (one of the organizers of the Larchmont/Town program) to share her ideas at a future CFTE meeting. The committee would like to sell kits at the two upcoming screening events for Waste! at the Mamaroneck Library on October 3rd at 7:30p and October 20th at 2:30p (Leon will arrange for the Village to advertise the screenings on Facebook). Other suggestions included petitioning Westchester County to subsidize food waste collection (similar to what is currently done for garbage), increasing CFTE involvement in the tri-municipal food waste task force and Sustainable Westchester, door tags, material distribution in schools/PTSA, LMCTV promotion, improved branding, and additional signage posted throughout the Village.

The group agreed that the updated Village recycling brochure (due to be distributed in the next few months) needs more pictures and less text to help with readability. There was some discussion regarding whether or not the Village might be able to utilize the Town of Mamaroneck's graphics "expert" to help simplify our brochure.

The Village has recently signed a shared services contract with Sustainable Westchester to provide website content and an app to promote our waste and recycling programs. There is a possibility that this content may allow the Village to eliminate dissemination of the annual recycling brochure in future years (more discussion on this topic is needed).

Sustainability Committee

David Freeman provided news on the Village's comprehensive plan update. The current draft of the chapter on Sustainability is under review (comments thus far pertain to improved readability/precision, inclusion of action items, and the addition of an executive summary). Some goals that will be articulated in the plan update include becoming a Clean Energy Community and a Climate Smart Community, the elimination of pesticides/synthetic fertilizers on lawns, further support for walking/biking, curbside food waste collection, green building methods, and improvement of the zoning process for solar energy collection.

The Village is promoting a Comprehensive Plan Update open house from 4p to 7:30p on September 27th in the courtroom. Committee members were asked to spread the word. Greg noted that the Village has completed 3 of the 4 required High Impact Actions in the process of obtaining Clean Energy Community designation.

Healthy Yards Program

Katherine spoke about the upcoming Healthy Yards program, a collaboration between the Village, Town of Mamaroneck, and Larchmont. The current hope is that the program will be formally launched sometime next Spring. “Healthy” yards are defined in this context as yards and landscapes that are managed without the use of toxic synthetic pesticides or fertilizers to obtain an aesthetically-pleasing lawn. The tri-municipal group is learning from neighboring Westchester towns/villages that have already launched such programs. The group plans to use the “PRFCT Yard Handbook” produced by the Perfect Earth Project as its main reference guide. Some of the main challenges in establishing such a program have been identified as demonstrating to homeowners/landscapers that toxic-free yard care is a superior approach, establishing a list of questions to ask prospective landscapers about their ability to practice toxic-free yard care, and creating a certification process for landscapers. Interested parties can go to the Rye Sustainability Committee website (www.ryesustainability.com) for more information. Rye Pet Pantry Warehouse will be hosting a Healthy Lawns event on October 16th from 5:30p to 7p. The group agreed that the Rye Middle School Spooktacular event on October 26th might be a good venue to begin promotion of the Healthy Yards program.

Leaf Blower Subcommittee

The committee spent some time discussing the leaf blower ban enforcement in Marc’s absence. One issue is that the leaf blower ordinances for Larchmont/Town of Mamaroneck are geared to reduce noise, while the Village’s ordinance also targets air pollution/dust from the blowers. It would be beneficial if the three entities could standardize their leaf blower rules and enforcement activity. Some ideas to increase compliance with the ordinances include establishing a resident hotline to call in reports of violators, creating a landscaper certification process, and moving enforcement from criminal to civil liability.

Taylor Lane Update

Leon reported that no further communication has been received from New York Department of Environmental Conservation regarding passive recreation approvals for the Taylor Lane Landfill.

Public Comments

No public comments were submitted.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.