

# FINAL

## Meeting Minutes

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

**Present:** Ellen Silver (Chair), Katherine Desmond, David Styler, Martin Hain, Jeff DeToro, Dave Finch, Christi Young; Greg Cutler (Village Planner), Matt DeSilva (Asst. Village Planner), Leon Potok (Trustee, Liaison to Village Board), Robert Ingenito (new Village resident)

Minutes from October 2018 CFTE meeting approved.

The group spent a few minutes discussing the end of terms for three CFTE members. Jeff DeToro's term ends in December, and he has chosen not to be selected for another term. David Styler and Maria Karsou's terms end in December. David has not decided whether he wishes to serve an additional term. We have not heard from Maria about her desire to stay or leave. Trustees and CFTE will search for potential new members.

## Food Waste Program

A key driver toward making this nascent program more successful is to publicize it and get more Village residents to participate. The Food Waste Program was promoted at the recently held Turkey Trot. However, there were no sales of kits that day. It was recommended that kits be available for sale on a regular basis at places where people have greater access, not only at the DPW office, which is in an out-of-the-way location.

It was recommended that we have signage to help navigate participants to the Fayette Ave. DPW location for drop off, such as "This Way to Food Waste Recycling". Other signs informing people that the program has begun is critical. About 6 large signs should be created, perhaps for Harbor Island Park, the squares outside the Post Office and the 127 feeder, and the Library Community Board. Greg will handle this.

Related to this, we need to develop a document that provides concisely the reason this is important, including the benefits to the Village and our surroundings (decline in methane emissions, composting is the best outcome of food waste, etc.) and a "how-to", such as instructions on what is and what is not accepted, how the kit makes participation easier, etc. A public service announcement will be made with LMT-TV,

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highlighting these features. Perhaps it will have a car driving to the Fayette Ave. DPW center to show exactly where and how to drop food waste off.

To date, the Village has sold 68 food waste recycling kits, and takes in 1,200 lbs of food waste per 2-week period. The Village recently expanded the program to schools, and it was felt the right thing to do to market strongly to the children, as they will push this onto their parents. Scarsdale and the Town of Mamaroneck are working with their schools. It was felt we need to reach out to Mamaroneck Ave. School and the Rye Neck schools soon.

### **Leaf Blower Subcommittee**

The committee spent some time discussing potential changes to the Village's leaf blower ban rule. Marc discussed where things stand. A quatra-municipal subcommittee was formed to compare rules and see whether a uniform bill containing the most stringent elements of each municipality's rules can be agreed to. With a uniform rule, the landscapers who break this rule have one less excuse ("Oh the rules are so different in each municipality and I can't keep up!"). The four municipalities include the Village, the Village of Larchmont, the Town of Mamaroneck, and the City of Rye.

Recently, we have been informed that the Town of New Castle is considering its own revised legislation on the matter. Their proposed rule, if approved, adds a provision not found in any of the four area municipalities. We understand New Castle wishes to ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers all year, and allow only electric-powered leaf blowers during the periods it is allowed.

Kristin Anderson of the Village of Larchmont wrote a draft rule that takes the most stringent portion of each existing rule and suggests following New Castle's potential lead and ban gasoline-fired leaf blowers all year. She wrote a draft rule using Larchmont's rules as a guide. It also includes text in the beginning justifying the need for this rule, emphasizing scientific studies that demonstrate that operation of leaf blowers kicks up dirt and other matter into the air which people breathe in and raise the level of local health risks. It is a well written summary of the potential adverse health impacts of leaf blowers and shift the debate from noise and nuisance to protecting public health. The draft rule was distributed by email to the CFTE and Trustee liaison before the November monthly meeting, but no one had read it thoroughly yet. It was requested that everyone review it by December's meeting for a robust discussion.

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An additional question came up about enforcement of the existing rule in the Village, which ended September 30. It was stated anecdotally that police issue a couple of violations of the existing rule per week. Nobody knew how the Village courts have treated violators, in terms of fines or whether charges tend to get dismissed.

### **Sustainability Subcommittee**

Neil Desai, who is preparing the updated Village Comprehensive Plan, has issued a draft chapter on Sustainability for review. David F., Katherine, and Marc have provided comments thus far on specifics. The draft chapter will be provided to the full CFTE for review and comments.

### **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.

Our tri-municipal group is learning from neighboring Westchester towns/villages that have already launched such programs. The City of Rye gives residents a little flag to place prominently on their lawns if they have made the healthy yard pledge. The Town of Bedford has issued a list of landscapers capable of performing yard work that meets “Healthy” criteria. The City of Rye issued a list of recommended landscapers a few years ago but wants to review to make sure the listed parties meet Healthy Yards standards.

### **Clean Energy**

It was announced that the Village was just designated as a “Clean Energy Community” by the State of New York. Formal recognition will occur in the future.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments were submitted.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.