

MEMORANDUM

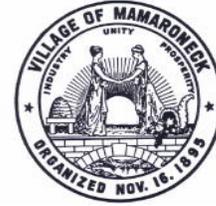
Village of Mamaroneck

To: Dan Sarnoff
Assistant Village Manager

From: Hernane De Almeida, P.E.
Superintendent of DPW
Village Engineer

Re: Recent Reports of River Foam

Date: April 23, 2018



P 914-777-7745

F 914-777-7757

www.villageofmamaroneck.org

I have been requested by the Mayor to provide a summary regarding the recent and repetitive issue of 'river foam' in the Village.

Residents of the Village regularly inform us of environmental concerns, safety hazards and provide us with information for the betterment of the Village. One particular notification we receive has been reports of foam in the Mamaroneck River; we have investigated and sampled the foam to try to establish a source.

The foam can be found in both the Sheldrake and Mamaroneck Rivers and varies in intensity depending on the day. Within the last, roughly, one year we have received repetitive notice of this foam and on February 2, 2017 the Village through contract with Arcadis, an engineering firm providing environmental engineering services, tested the foam for oil, grease and surfactants. Samples were taken along the Mamaroneck River by Westchester Joint Waterworks and by Jefferson Avenue Bridge. Laboratory equipment could not detect contaminants in seven of the eight samples collected. The one sample that showed surfactant (soap) was nearly undetectable and had it indeed been a positive result for surfactant, the concentration would have been 600x higher than what was detected.

I have been copied on correspondence between a Village resident and Save the Sound copying many Village officials, the Committee for the Environment and the NYSDEC discussing how the EPA has inspected the River foam in both 2015 and 2016 and concluded both times that the foam is naturally occurring.

Again these complaints were received in February of this year and I was approached by our Village Manager, Rob Yamuder, asking to investigate the complaint he received. I replied to him that I went to Jefferson Avenue Bridge, Hillside Avenue Bridge, North Barry Avenue Extension Bridge, and Winfield Avenue Bridge and found a consistent amount of foam at each location.

It has come to my attention that the foam is still a point of debate among some in the community and the validity of the observations and testing is being questioned. This topic has even made it onto the Harbor Coastal Zone Management Commission agenda for discussion.

On April 18, 2018, Arcadis was in the village to collect samples for an investigation they were performing and I asked for them to also collect a new round of samples of river foam and to analyze them for grease, oil and surfactants. They took samples at Columbus Park in the Mamaroneck River just downstream of Jefferson Avenue Bridge and in the Sheldrake River just downstream of the Mamaroneck Avenue Bridge. I personally witnessed the collection of the samples and observed foam going into the small sampling jars. I expect the results within the next week. If the results show evidence of grease, oil or surfactants then we will perform additional rounds of sampling until we can narrow down the source. If the results show no evidence of grease, oil or surfactants then I would hope that this will bring closure to this topic.