

## **AGENDA**

### **Village of Mamaroneck • Committee for the Environment September 19, 2023 @7:30 p.m., Village Hall**

#### **Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2023 Meeting (7:30 – 7:35 p.m.)**

#### **Report on Recent and Upcoming Events (Mandy) (7:35 – 7:55 p.m.)**

- Campaign for Energy Smart Homes event—September 24
- Monarch Festival—September 30
- Repair Café—October 15
- Rockland Pocket Park Ribbon Cutting—October 18
- Fall Community Cleanup event—November 4 (rain date, Nov. 5)
- Zero Waste Event policy

#### **Update on Proposed Mamaroneck Greenway (Kate and Christi) (7:55 – 8:15 p.m. )**

- Presentation by SLR (invited)
- I-95 flood mitigation issues

#### **Grant Applications Process and Grant Possibilities (8:15 – 8:30 p.m.)**

- Presentation by Taryn Pronko (invited)

#### **Leaf Blower Issues (Liam) (8:30 – 8:45 p.m.)**

- Leaf Blower Buyback—status
- Proposed legislation to be considered by BOT on 9/26
- Possible letter to Judge Derrico

#### **Updates (8:45 – 9:30 p.m.)**

- Involvement with OCRA (Original Civic Research and Action) at MHS
- EV Charging Stations
- Unified Solar Permit
- Comprehensive Plan
- Taylors Lane
- Strengthening Protection for Wetlands and Wetland Buffer Areas
- Energy Stretch Code
- Grid Rewards
- Bike Lane Project
- Butterfly Milkweed /BOT resolution on native plants
- Pollinator Gardens

- CFTE Webpage Update/Refresh; Inauguration of CSC Webpage

**Public Comment:** At the end of each meeting. 10-minute limit per person, unless otherwise permitted by CFTE.

**Draft VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
July 18, 2023 Meeting**

**Members Present:** David Freeman (Chair), Lou Young (Trustee), Jerry Barberio (Village Manager), Dan Kushnick, Liam Robb O'Hagan (on phone), Jen LeClair, Lindsay Reitzes, Debbie Sullivan, Mandy Forlenza Sticos, **Absent:** Renee Crabtree, Christi Young, Katherine Dehais, Dinah Koehler.

**Guests:** Ellen Silver, Kristen Andersen. Michaela Loughran

The meeting is called to order at 7:36 p.m. at the VOM Courthouse.

**Minutes of the June 20, 2023 Meeting** are unanimously approved.

**Report on Recent and Upcoming Events**

- **Campaign for Energy Smart Homes event—September 24 (Debbie).** This will be at the Mamaroneck Library. Leah Roffman, the student volunteer, is working on both a press release and a flier. Sustainable Westchester will be helping with content. The event will also qualify for a CSC priority event, PE9 Climate Change Education and Engagement.
- **Monarch Festival—September 30 (Lindsay)** Mandy will be doing the Marketing. Lindsay is organizing the event overall. It is the same day as the Larchmont Food Truck Festival. Jerry states we can get one day permits for food trucks if needed, since only 7 trucks are currently approved at the Harbor. We will start earlier than last year 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to coordinate better with the Larchmont event. Jerry states that we can collect donations for plants, as long as there is signage to that effect. Vendors are able to sell at the Harbor if they have insurance and are cleared through Sally Roberts. Lindsay will check with Jeff about expanding the Milkweed Patch. We need to get a plaque for the Monarch Garden.
- **Repair Café—October 15 (Debbie)** This will be at the Senior Center again this year. We will need to be promoting the event.
- **Scheduling of Fall Community Cleanup event.** Date is to be Saturday, November 4, with a Raindate on Sunday, November 5. Dan will talk to Robert Ingenito about scheduling the shredder. Brief discussion on location of the event; Harbor Island vs Columbus or another park; TBD.

**Report on Progress Towards CSC Certification.** Ellen Silver briefly describes the CSC and CEC programs. We currently have 120 points which are needed for Bronze CSC. We need 3 priority items; currently we have 1 priority item, we are 90% there on

the 2nd priority item, the Comprehensive Plan, and are looking at either EV charging stations or a Climate Action Plan for the 3rd item. Dan, Liam, Ellen and Michaela have been working on the CAP. The next date for submission for the Bronze designation is January 2024. Then for Silver Designation, we will need an additional 180 points and 4 more priority actions.

- **Unified Solar Permit** At last night's BOT Work Session, Ellen presented on the Unified Solar Permit. It is a standardized permit which streamlines the process for both installers and customers. It will be up for a vote at the August 14th BOT meeting. There is a CEC grant connected to the Village adopting the USP. Jerry reports that 5 or 6 applications are typical each month. The VOM attorney needs to review the USP; if there are questions this could push the USP to the next session. Norah Lucas had questions about landmarked buildings at the presentation; Carolina Fonseca will look at this issue and get back to us.
- **EV Charging Station Delay** We contracted for 12 stations with Blink, but ConEd is behind on installation. Jerry is working with Jane Solnick at Con Ed trying to fast track 4 stations.
- **New Logo for CSC.** Ellen reports that a design has been selected by using Logo Tournament.

**Discuss possibility of grant application(s) Updates.** Jerry states that the CFTE and CSC need to articulate to our grant writer what kind of grants we are interested in. If we tell her our objectives, she can look for grants in those areas. Jerry agrees to ask her to attend the September 19 meeting. He suggests that she and Sara Powell talk about grants that are appropriate for us. Small grants can be handled directly if the Committee submits them to Jerry's office.

**Leaf Blower Policy.** Kristin Andersen from the VOL Environmental Committee presents on their Leaf Blower Policy and discussed the possibility of a tri municipal policy to decrease confusion for landscapers and residents. The VOL's policy completely bans gas blowers and allows electric blowers from March 15 to April 15, and October 15 to December 15. They highly recommend mulch mowing, even for driveways, and to stop municipal leaf pick up, which they are working toward. She reports that the policy has been very successful. They did a lot of education before implementing the policy; first pointing out all the negatives of leaf blowing, then all the positives. They fine property owners, landscapers and the crew. She states the community really appreciates the quiet, and the Village uses it as a selling point, especially with so many people working from home. The VOL municipality also follows the policy.

Jerry reported that Larchmont is very aggressive in policing leaf blower calls; the calls are frequent. He is not sure that the VOM police are ready to be as aggressive. He will be having a blitz date for violations. Much more education is needed in the VOM before we are ready to adopt a policy similar to Larchmont's. We are currently planning the gas blower buy back. The Village has just signed for 3 electric leaf blowers. Jerry states that the Village now has the structure to work on implementing the policy. The leaf piles in the fall are expensive, and they encourage blowing. Lou relayed to the Committee a recent BOT discussion regarding a ban on gas powered blowers. The CFTE agrees it would support a ban on gas powered leaf blowers, but not a change in the dates that would allow electric blowers.

David suggests a subcommittee to look further into promoting mulch mowing, moving away from gas blowers and eliminating leaf piles. Liam and David volunteer for the subcommittee; Jerry volunteers himself and Robert Ingenito.

The committee agrees that Step 1 is to eliminate gas blowers, promote mulch mowing, and keep the dates October 15 to May 15 for electric blowers. Long term goal is to move closer to the VOL policy. Jerry agrees that the Village can go all electric for its work.

Kristen reports that the VOM and TOM have the leaf blower ordinances under Noise Violations, while VOL has a separate section for Leaf Blower Regulations.

**Leaf Blower Buyback.** Jerry agrees that the Village will have 2 Buy Back days in the fall. Residents would turn in any type of gas powered lawn care equipment at the DPW for \$100 vouchers good for exchange for electric lawn care equipment at KBR and Foley's. The DPW will ensure that the gas equipment is disposed of properly. Jerry will see if the new Ace Hardware on Mamaroneck Avenue is also able to participate. David calls for a vote, and the Committee unanimously approves this proposal.

The Committee rejects the idea to have residents get rebates from the Village by submitting receipts for electric equipment recently purchased.

**SLR.** Per Jerry, SLR will be attending our September 19th meeting.

**Taylor's Lane** Jerry reports that he has proposed to the Town of Rye that the area of Taylor's Lane owned by the TOR be traded to us for needed work the Village would undertake on the Otter Bridge. David continues to follow up with Mike Murphy at DEC.

**Strengthening Protection for Wetlands and Wetland Buffer Areas** Per Jerry, Dan Sarnoff and Greg Cutler are looking into this, including collecting materials developed

when this issue was considered previously, and will present it to the BOT on August 14. Their report will be available August 11, which the CFTE members should review for any comments prior to their presentation.

**Comprehensive Plan** Jerry reports that public hearings are still open; he hopes to have the Plan discussed at the August 14 BOT meeting and finalized for approval at the September 12 BOT meeting.

**Bike Lane Project.** Jerry states that the reason the Village is not moving forward on this is that they have too many projects going on right now. He feels the grant needs to be supported by all 3 municipalities and the 2 school districts. The next step is to have Mike Smeets present to a joint meeting with the 3 municipalities and 2 school districts.

**I-95 flood mitigation issues** Next meeting with Thruway will be after the SLR report comes out.

**Lou** raises 2 issues that Trustee Leilani Yizer-Reid asked to have addressed. She proposed that all the committee chairs have a joint meeting. The Committee agrees that this is a good idea. She also asked that there be some instructional materials on native plants for residents. Mandy proposes a subcommittee on beatification; she would like signage in the parks which will need funding. Jerry suggests bringing ideas to the BOT on March 15 when the budgets are discussed. Alternatively Lou can petition the BOT for funds.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Sullivan

The Village of Mamaroneck should be hosting zero-waste events for a greener world! Here's what they are, why to do them, and how to do them!

**Zero-waste event:** an event that is designed to eliminate the production of waste and the use of raw materials

**Why do it? Benefits of zero-waste events:**

- 1: Reduces our climate impact
  - The U.S. EPA has estimated roughly 42% of all greenhouse gas emissions are caused by the production and use of goods, including food, products and packaging
  - Reducing, reusing and recycling can be a key part of a climate change strategy to reduce those GHG emissions
- 2: Conserves resources and minimizes pollution
  - Extracting raw materials from natural spaces requires large amounts of energy and causes pollution
  - By going zero-waste, these materials are instead left to be conserved and the pollution that would come from extracting them is reduced
- 3: Protects community health
  - Zero waste reduces pollution, which helps to protect communities from health threats like respiratory diseases
- 4: Supports a local circular economy and creates new jobs
  - Using one person's "waste" as a resource for something new creates good, green jobs
  - Recycling, compost, and diversion programs can create 10 times more jobs than disposal programs
- 5: Westchester County supports waste reduction!
  - The county recently passed a resolution aimed at reduction of single use foodware  
<https://www.westchestergov.com/home/all-press-releases/9920-westchester-county-s-upon-request-law-aimed-at-curbing-use-of-single-use-foodware-take-effect-on-september-2>

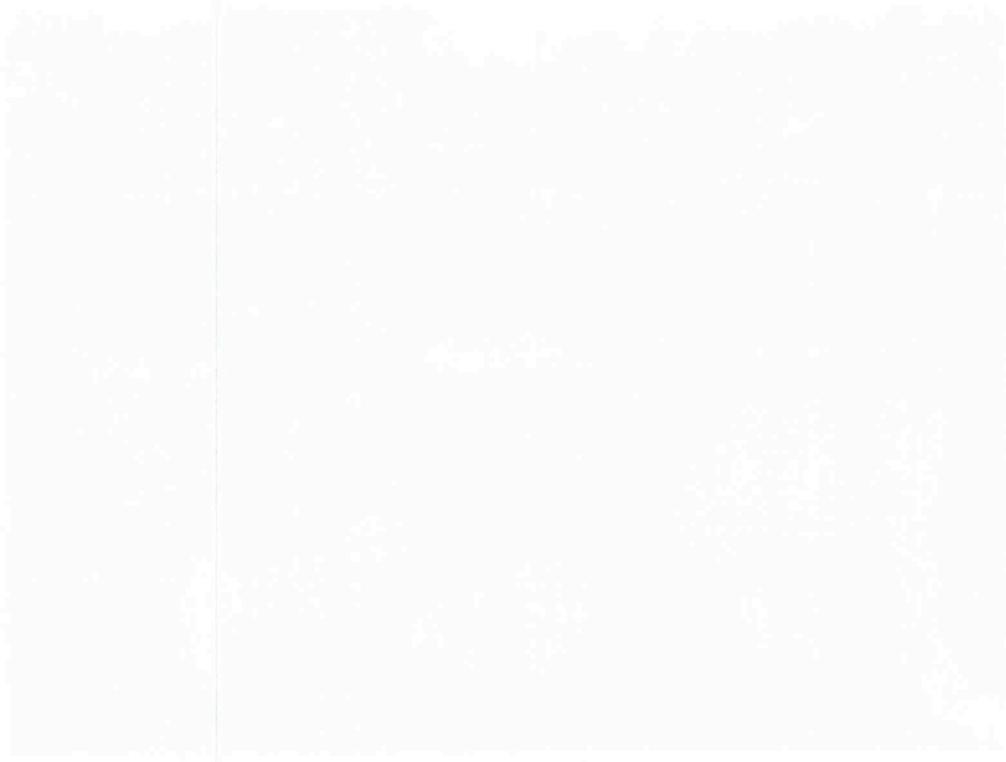
**How to do it? 10 steps to hosting a zero-waste event:**

- 1: Inform suppliers of your zero-waste approach upfront. Use agreements to avoid excessive packaging. Find alternative suppliers if needed.
- 2: Provide tap water as an eco-friendly alternative to bottled water. It's safe, regulated, and reduces plastic waste at events

- 3: For indoor events, opt for reusable plates, cutlery, and tablecloths instead of disposables. For outdoor events, get compostable utensils and plates. Here are some sources for cheap compostable utensils and plates:
  - Cutlery:  
[https://www.amazon.com/100-Compostable-Utensils-Heavyweight-Flatware-Friendly/dp/B0B5R7RRVK/ref=sr\\_1\\_1\\_sspa?keywords=compostable%2Bsilverware&qid=1693336329&srefix=compostable%2Bsilv%2Caps%2C135&sr=8-1-spons&sp\\_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/100-Compostable-Utensils-Heavyweight-Flatware-Friendly/dp/B0B5R7RRVK/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?keywords=compostable%2Bsilverware&qid=1693336329&srefix=compostable%2Bsilv%2Caps%2C135&sr=8-1-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&th=1)
  - Plates:  
[https://www.amazon.com/GreenWorks-Compostable-Dessert-Unbleached-Biodegradable/dp/B0B9HDFDVN/ref=sr\\_1\\_8?crd=3D7V3RVN1H7PW&keywords=compostable+plates&qid=1693336393&srefix=compostable+plate%2Caps%2C147&sr=8-8](https://www.amazon.com/GreenWorks-Compostable-Dessert-Unbleached-Biodegradable/dp/B0B9HDFDVN/ref=sr_1_8?crd=3D7V3RVN1H7PW&keywords=compostable+plates&qid=1693336393&srefix=compostable+plate%2Caps%2C147&sr=8-8)
  - Cups:  
[https://www.amazon.com/Earths-Natural-Alternative-Compostable-bamboo/dp/B08GKXZ25G/ref=sr\\_1\\_2\\_sspa?crd=OAO6HNV9KQR&keywords=compostable+cups&qid=1693337872&srefix=compostable+cups%2Caps%2C477&sr=8-2-spons&sp\\_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&pvc=1](https://www.amazon.com/Earths-Natural-Alternative-Compostable-bamboo/dp/B08GKXZ25G/ref=sr_1_2_sspa?crd=OAO6HNV9KQR&keywords=compostable+cups&qid=1693337872&srefix=compostable+cups%2Caps%2C477&sr=8-2-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&pvc=1)
- 4: Minimize food waste by getting the right amount of meals for the guest count. Offer variable portion sizes, non-peel fruits, and provide containers for leftovers. Set up compost bins and donate untouched food.
- 5: Cut packaging waste by using bulk dispensers or larger packs for items like coffee, sugar, and condiments. Check with suppliers about packaging return options.
- 6: Choose sustainable decor options like rentals, secondhand items, or natural settings. Avoid disposable decorations.
- 7: Simplify waste sorting with clearly marked recycling and compost bins. Larger events might require a waste management team. Ensure proper waste handling post-event.
- 8: For outdoor events, consider dry toilets to save water. Dry toilets use compostable materials and reduce water usage. Gray water can be an alternative to these.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
5301 SOUTH CAMPUS DRIVE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637



**From:** Christie L. Derrico cderrico@nycourts.gov

**Subject:** Re: Blower law in Court Today

**Date:** August 22, 2023 at 3:08 PM

**To:** Jerry Barberio jbarberio@vomny.org

**Cc:** Committee for the Environment cfe@vomny.org, Mayor and Board MayorandBoard@vomny.org, Department Heads DepartmentHeads@vomny.org

CD

Although ethical rules prohibit judges from responding to requests for explanations of court orders or judgments (see Judicial Ethics Opinion 00-85) “A judge generally may publicly express his/her views on matters concerning the law, legal system or administration of justice.” The spirit of this opinion has been explained to me by the Judicial Ethics office as “an effort to improve the law and the administration of justice.” (see Opinion 20-42)

I have intended to write to our governing body concerning the leaf blower law for some time, as these violations come before the court seasonally. On August 15th we had an unusually large number of leaf blower violations appear before the court, which was mirrored again today to a lesser extent.

Village Ordinance Section 254-3 (R), falls under “Noise” ordinances and is referred to as the leaf blower law. Contrary to neighboring jurisdictions, this law does not allow for electric leaf blowers versus gas powered machines, but it does allow anyone using a leaf blower to be violated, including homeowners. The fine range for violations under this section is \$0-\$250 for the first violation; not exceeding \$500 for the second violation and not exceeding \$1000 for the third violation. Fines are set by the judge alone. Since this is a “violation” and not a crime there is no criminal record or 'rap sheet' generated for the defendants/violators and, absent notification from the village prosecutor, the Court has no means to assess whether a party is a repeat offender.

The August 15th email sent to department heads employs the noted use of the word “landscapers” to describe the collective defendants who have been violated under this section of the law. This categorizing of individuals was reflected in the profession of the defendants who came before the court on August 15 and today—there were no homeowners. This is a departure from other violations given for property maintenance, such as clearing sidewalks from snow or property maintenance, such as infestation, etc.—in those instances, the property owner/tenant is routinely issued violations, not the snow removal company or extermination company. Furthermore, it is noted that village employees have not been violated under the leaf blower law, although they have been observed using these devices.

With regard to the comment that “It is clear the court does not stand with us” it important to remind all parties that the court is an entirely separate and independent branch of government. **Section 100.1 of the rules governing judicial conduct reinforces this obligation by stating, “that a judge has an obligation to preserve the independence of the judiciary. 22 NYCRR 100.1.”**

Many of the leaf blower defendants before the Court commented that they erroneously purchased and used expensive electric blowers based upon the more permissive local laws of neighboring

communities—in fact, several violations reflected the use of gas powered versus electric in the body of the document.

In areas of our waterfront community where debris may cause congestion in the rivers and waterways, it may be necessary to remove debris for flood mitigation purposes. Therefore, a reasonable alternative to gas powered leaf blowers may be appropriate. But analysis of the language of the law is left to the governing body and community support organizations who help craft this law.

The court will continue to evaluate all cases before it, consistent with ethical guidelines, judicial fairness and individualized examination of cases.

JUDGE CHRISTIE DERRICO