

Village of Mamaroneck Committee for the Environment Minutes of March 1, 2023 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m. at the Regatta.

Members Present: David Freeman (Chair), Jen LeClair, Mandy Sticos, Christi Young, Katherine Dehais, Lindsay Reitzes, Dan Kushnick, Renee Crabtree, Lou Young (BOT Liaison)

Mike Smeets mike.smeets@gmail.com (Town of Mamaroneck resident) attended to listen and report regarding Bike Lane Project for Mamaroneck and Larchmont

The minutes of the January 17 meeting were approved.

Subcommittee Strategic Plans

Taylors Lane/Lindsay Reitzes: Topics that are delaying moving forward including possible encroachment on City of Rye property, testing boring wells, waiting for DEC to release land so we can move forward on potential plans. Discussion of solar array (compare Clarkstown). Trying to decide who should follow up with George Latimer. Inquire with DEC directly. Lindsay will call Dan Sarnoff to figure out next steps and how we can push effectively.

Open Space/Katherine Dehais: Laid out focus on sites along rivers. After successful creation Rockland Pocket Park, next area of interest is the Rockland Sheldrake Birdwalk. Audubon is open to providing grants.

- Ward Avenue along the river North of the bridge owned by the Village (possible voluntary conversation easement for public access).
- Jefferson Avenue Parking restored to open culvert of grass which will allow flood migration as well as converting it to public access to river.
- I-95 Analysis of flooding from I-95 into the Sheldrake River without being treated.
- Playland Circle is example of restored Wetland/Garden which could be imitated in Mamaroneck (Exit 18A/B).
- Highway is increasing the amount of water that is entering the Rivers (During Ida estimated 5.2 million gallons of water fell within 1 hour).
- Many projects will have to be TBD until Army Corp of Engineers finishes flood mitigation efforts.

Public Education - Mandy Sticos and Christi Young: Finalize Team Zones for Community Cleanup Day so that they are all walkable from Columbus Park.

Committee will go through all 2023 dates to see which ones are best for remaining events. Discussed promotion of No Mow May.

Composting/Healthy Yards/Jen LeClair: Jen is joining May 1st Compost Education event at Mamaroneck Library.

Composter vending changing: Need to make sure Village sends specific information, i.e., about how to bag compost or any changes other than the date. Leave the Leaves - creating literature.

Comprehensive Plan/David Freeman: Will contact Neil Desai to follow up.

Bike Lanes: Increase safe streets/sidewalks for kids to bike is priority.

Mike Smeets suggested contacting SS4A for grants and suggested 3 municipalities approach them together.

Lou suggested (per previous conversation) connecting the Village parks. Safe Rides to School meeting.

NY State - David Introduced Green Purchasing Program, proposed passing resolution recommending that BOT adopt a policy to follow the GreenNY procurement specifications the maximum extent practicable and where cost is reasonably competitive as defined in General Municipal Law 104-a. Resolution passed unanimously.

Discussion about Telecommunication extension and whether the committee has enough information to be able to intervene on behalf of the Washingtonville community.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory - Ellen has and compiled submitted inventory to VoM officials.

EV Charging Stations - Village attorney is looking at contracts with approved vendor.

Reminder that Village agreed to have a liaison who would attend quarterly committee sessions. David will follow up with Tom directly.

Energy Stretch Code/Unified Solar permit: New Village Planner is arriving. Dan Sarnoff will also follow up with new building inspector.

Leave the Leaves: BOT Approved resolution. Katherine sent Jerry supporting data. Will follow up further in August.

Contest for Healthy Yards: Possible given out at festival.

Composting: Discussion about promoting the pick-up service. Revisiting signage, correcting/updating Village literature. Jen to draft proposed revisions and contact Robert.

Buy back for gas powered device: Board approved concept; waiting to hear from Village attorney about process.

Meeting adjourned 9:32 p.m.