

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**Minutes of March 21, 2023 Meeting**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. at the VOM Courthouse.

**Introduction** of new member Dinah Koehler.

**Minutes of March 1, 2023 Meeting** were approved with a corrected typo to p.m. for meeting start time.

**Update on Subcommittees' Progress in Implementing Strategic Plans**

- **Taylors Lane.** Lindsay is looking for a DEC contact. Jerry suggests Daniel Lanners and Mike Murphy as our DEC contacts. Lou mentions the need to clarify the status of a portion that belongs to the Town of Rye. Lindsay to contact Dan S to confirm, and to ask if CFTE involvement or follow-up with George Latimer's office is needed.
- **Ecologically Sound Open Spaces.** Kate reports the village will plant trees in Rockland Pocket in mid-April, followed by volunteers planting ground cover and DEC shrubs in late April/beginning of May. She has arranged with Washingtonville Alliance (& possibly CRC) to donate extra pussy willows and dogwoods to VOM residents. She is researching the relationship of I-95 to flooding and will report to FMC and this committee soon.

Kate reports that the ACE seems open to converting their plan for a closed tunnel to an open culvert as has been discussed at prior meetings. The plan calls for the parking lots to be lowered by about 3 feet and made permeable. Jerry says that the Village will need to decide what it wants to do; will probably start working on designs in Summer/Fall.

The Open Space Committee is looking at the areas behind the Speedway Gas station on Mamaroneck Avenue and the corner of Howard and Nostrand as places for river access. They will arrange a CFTE walk along the rivers to assess viability of open space/riverwalk sites.

- **Composting/Healthy Yard.** Jen is working on updating the DPW brochure. She will be having a Composting Event at the Library on May 1. Lindsay brings up a need for a larger curbside food scrap bin; Jerry will follow up. Jen brings up the possibility of a grant if the Village has more than a ton/week, but Jerry does not believe we have that much right now.

- **Comprehensive Plan.** The fourth version is now open for public comments until March 28th. Jerry believes it should be approved by this summer. David would like us to discuss how we will use it to move forward with our goals as a Committee. Everyone should be prepared to discuss this at our next meeting. Discussion about inviting Neil Desai to walk us through plan at future meeting.

- **Public Education** Mindy reports that the Mamaroneck Community Clean Up sign up has been emailed to Committee members; she asks that we sign up as team captains. She is hoping to get T-shirts donated by Ink It Up for captains and committee members. Jerry reports that the shredder will be manned by Village staff.

Volunteers are needed for the Earth Day Event at Central Avenue Elementary School April 21st at 3 pm. Debbie volunteers.

The Library Centennial Tree Planting Event is April 22 at 11 a.m. Harbor Island, Orienta side of the park. Larchmont is having an Earth Day celebration in the afternoon from 1-4; David and Kate are volunteering to attend the Larchmont event.

Mandy has approached Sarah Newman with an offer of helping to plant a butterfly garden. This will be a link in the Pollinator Pathway. David and Kate volunteer to attend a meeting there.

Mandy would like to see the Metro North RR bridge near Rockland beautified; she has confirmed that Metro North is only responsible for structural upkeep. Mandy and Jerry will reach out to the Arts Council.

Debbie asks to have the EnergySmart Homes Campaign moved to the Public Education Subcommittee. The Campaign has been accepted by NYSERDA; Debbie has asked Robert Ingenito to publish an announcement in the weekly newsletter to start the campaign. Jerry will follow up with Robert. Debbie has flyers for posting and handing out at events, and will be following up with social media postings. Mandy and Lindsay suggested promoting through the Larchmont Temple Group (Houses of Worship Green).

### **Leaf Blower Ban/Restriction**

Jerry reports that there are 100 violations/year; the fine is \$250. The gas powered buy back program has been approved; Jerry will follow up with Ellen Silver to see if Foley's, KRB or both stores will take the vouchers. A dumpster will be needed to collect the blowers that are traded in. Dinah suggests that the door hangers that were distributed 2 years ago be given out again. Jen will look into updating them.

### **Draft New York State Solid Waste Management Plan.**

Liam sent everyone a summary of the plan.

**Updates** (to the extent not covered in prior Strategic Plan discussion)

- **New York State Green Purchasing Communities.** Jerry will give an update as to what we already are doing. David asks if the BOT has adopted this as a policy.
- **CSC/CEC**
  - **Government Operations Climate Action Plan.** Liam reports that Ellen, Dan and he attended a meeting on this; a resolution to adopt this is on the next BOT agenda.
  - **EV Charging Stations.** Jerry reports the contract was signed today. 12 new stations will be installed.
  - **Solar Panels on VoM Buildings.** Jerry reports this was passed; new roofs will have solar.
  - **Energy Stretch Code.** To be considered in the second quarter of 2023.
  - **Unified Solar Permit.** The new Building Inspector, Carolina Fonseca, wants to leave this until the second quarter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Sullivan