

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Minutes of April 18, 2023 Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. at the VOM Courthouse.

Minutes of the March 21, 2023 Meeting were unanimously approved.

Report on proposed “Mamaroneck Greenway: River Walks Connecting Parks” (Kate and Christie). Christie and Kate presented a proposed Mamaroneck Greenway (see attachment) to create paths connecting existing parks and other village land, making a cohesive walk through the VOM. The proposal would link village-owned sites from land south of the Rockland Pocket Preserve along the Sheldrake, through Columbus Park and along the Mamaroneck River to the Harrison border with a branch southwards connecting Ward Ave Park down to Tompkins Bridge and Harbor Island Park. (see map) David brought up that the Greenway fits in with environmental justice needs, with the VOM's Comprehensive Plan's sustainability goals and can be done in conjunction with the ACE flood control plans to enhance natural ways to control flooding. Jerry will bring the plan to the BOT. He suggested that Greg Cutler, the Village Planner, can overlay the Greenway map onto the ACE elements, to look for challenging points: the DEC is also involved with this planning. He mentioned that the Ward Avenue Park Bridge is to be widened and will eliminate all but a small portion of the park at that point; however, the village land north of Ward Ave. Bridge, which would be incorporated in this plan, will not be disturbed. A motion was unanimously passed that **“The CFTE endorses the concept of a Mamaroneck Greenway and encourages relevant planning personnel to devise concrete plans to bring the concept into fruition.”**

Report on Bike Lane Project (Mike Smeets). Mike has already presented a proposal for the Bike Lane Project to the BOT and wants our support. He presented a slide show which can be seen at [lmbikelanes.com](https://www.lmbikelanes.com). He encouraged us to follow @LM_Bikelanes on Instagram. He is looking for tri-municipal support, to apply for grant monies under the IRA, to meet the goals of the Comprehensive Plan and to get community support. Lou agrees that a groundswell of support will be needed to overcome concerns about the loss of parking spaces and constraints on traffic. David proposed a motion, which was unanimously approved, **“to endorse applying for a grant for a bike and pedestrian plan that meets the goals of the Comprehensive Plan”.**

Discussion of Comprehensive Plan was deferred until the next meeting. Neil Desai will be at the April 24th Work Session.

Update on April 29 Mamaroneck Community Cleanup (Mandy/Christi).

Sign up for the Community Cleanup on April 29th is lower than usual by this time compared with other years, with only 57 sign ups so far. The location and name have changed, and we are using Eventbrite to sign up instead of Sign Up Genius. Mandy urged us to get the word out. Jerry asked for drop off locations for trash pickup by DPW. A decision on the rain date will be made at 10:30 Friday morning if rain is predicted. Service letters are to be done on site.

Other upcoming events are: 1) Thursday, April 20, Jen and Mandy will be working with the Cub Scouts on “8 Ways to Save the Earth”, and will be doing rock painting with them, 2) Friday, April 21, CFTE members will be at Central Avenue School’s Earth Day event. Saturday, April 22, CFTE members will be at both the Library Centennial Tree Planting event in the morning and at the Larchmont Environmental Committee’s Earth Day event in the afternoon. Jerry approved the selling of Food Scrap bins. Debbie will have information on EnergySmart Homes and Grid Rewards.

Leaf Blower Ban/Restriction (Liam). Jerry has the door hangers ready for staff to distribute. Debbie asked that they be put on condos which were left out previously. A discussion of the Leaf Blower ban/restriction will be held for next month’s agenda.

Unified Solar Permit (Liam). Liam reports that there is no change in the status, as the Building Department will not be looking at this until June.

Executive Order on Native Plants (Renee). In keeping with Westchester County’s order on native plants, the Committee unanimously adopted a resolution “**encouraging the VOM to adopt, as an executive order or otherwise, the use native plants in the village.**”

Report on I-95 Flood Mitigation Issues (Kate). Kate presented information on how I-95 contributes to flooding in the VOM, along with maps and photos (see attachments). She had presented this information to the Flood Mitigation Committee on 3/28/2023, and communicated the issues to Steve Otis and Shelly Mayer, who have been in communication with the Thruway Authority. Village engineer Gino Frabasile agreed that the analysis looks sound and believes I-95 is having a significant impact on flooding in the VOM: The impervious surface prohibits infiltration, and accelerates and raises flood levels; I-95’s layout interferes with natural floodplains and ponds. The design and poor

condition of cloverleaf entrance/exit ramps and condition of drainage infrastructure causes the runoff of silt and water into the Mamaroneck River, contributing to the flooding in the VOM. The CFTE voted unanimously **“to recommend that the BOT ask state officials to address the following with the NYS Thruway Authority: 1) that the 7 cloverleaves and interior spaces formed by I-95 ramps in Mamaroneck be reconfigured as landscaped bioswales to hold water and retain silt; 2) that a diversion pipe from Gedney Pond (whose functioning as a retention pond has been impeded by the onramp near Saxon Woods) be considered to move floodwater to a retention basin/bioswale in adjacent space 1; 3) that the Thruway Authority immediately upgrade degraded infrastructure (such as the pictured drain behind 611 Fayette) and bring it into compliance with their current Highway Drainage guidelines; and 4) that given the extremity of flood damage in Mamaroneck, the Thruway Authority expeditiously move to bring its entire footprint into compliance with 2023 standards.**

Updates (and new matters, indicated by *)

New York State Green Purchasing Communities Program. Jerry reported NY State already uses Green Purchasing. Village Staff have concerns about changes in cleaning products which he is trying to address. David noted that a resolution was already passed by the CFTE regarding Green Purchasing, and needs to be brought before the Board. He will send a copy of the language of the resolution to Jerry for forwarding to the Board.

CSC/CEC: Government Operations Climate Action Plan. Liam reported that he and Dan have been working with the Hudson Valley Council. It is on the April 24th Work Session to get the BOT to endorse a Climate Action Plan.

EV Charging Stations. They are to be installed on July 1. Jerry raised the issue of having just 1 in Harbor Island as it is only used seasonally. For now we will have just 1 unit there.

Taylors Lane. Jerry reported that Dan Sarnoff is speaking to the DEC but encouraged us to do so as well. David will follow up.

Rewrites of Leave the leaves, DPW brochure. Jen is waiting for Robert to make the changes she has suggested.

Proposed gas-powered leaf blower buyback is moving forward.

Campaign for EnergySmart Homes. Debbie has scheduled an event at the Library on October 15th. Liam will be speaking about his experience with Geothermal.

GridRewards (Debbie)* Sustainable Westchester is promoting Grid Rewards; Debbie will be helping to promote at the various Earth Day events, along with ESHs, and on Instagram. Liam asked SW about materials for getting local businesses signed up. Debbie pointed out that the VOM can also participate as a municipality in the Grid

Rewards Program. A resolution was unanimously passed to recommend that **“the VOM investigate signing up for Grid Rewards”**.

Living Shorelines (Kate)* Kate asked that the CFTE support Shelly Mayer’s bill S8828A. A resolution was passed unanimously that **“the CFTE supports S8828A and the concept that nature-based solutions be used for shoreline management”**.

New Signage for Food Scrap Program. Jen has been working on this. A sticking point has been the use of the word “curbside” as the bins are not to be placed there. Jerry suggested “front yard” be used.

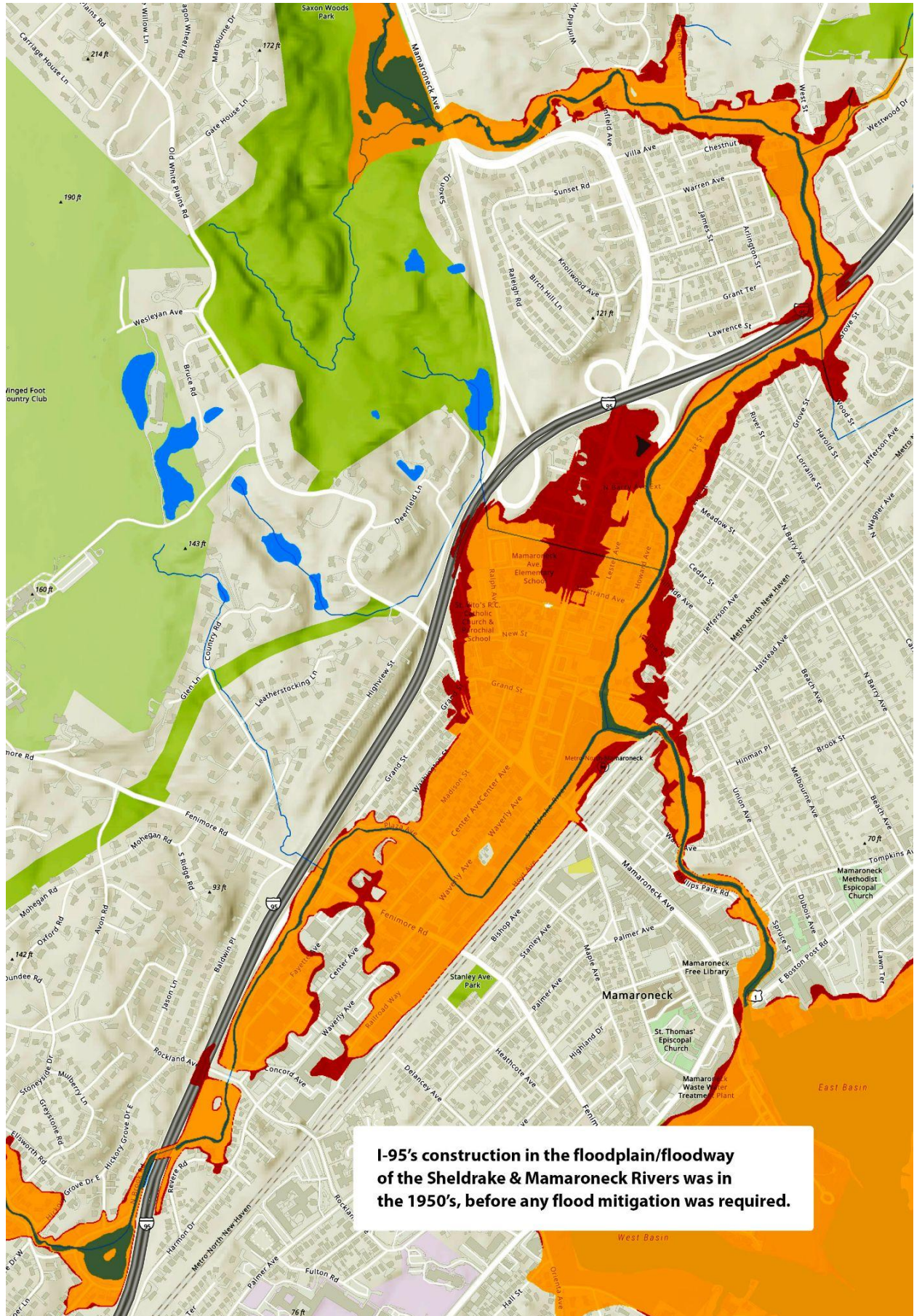
Issues Raised by Stuart Tiekert*. Street Sweeping. Stuart suggested that this be done year round. Jerry reported that there are problems using the equipment in the winter due to salt and freezing of water. **MS-4 Annual Report.** Stuart has asked for the report to be seen earlier. Jerry reported that the report is uploaded in its entirety to the Village website at the end of May, which is the applicable statutory deadline for publishing the Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Sullivan







I-95's footprint in the Village of Mamaroneck:

1,228,144 sq. ft. of impervious surface.
Impervious surfaces prevent infiltration and
accelerate peak flood conditions downstream.
During Ida, 8.5" of rain added 871,982 cubic feet/
6.5 million gallons to VOM floodwaters.



Slope of I-95 ramps and cloverleaves directs rainwater and silt to Mamaroneck's rivers and neighborhoods, and condition of interiors does little to trap either.

Example of a drain from I-95 sending unfiltered stormwater directly into the Sheldrake. Note the deteriorated condition of the drain, the erosion of the steep bank from the highway to the river, and the deeply eroded stream bank near the bottom of the drain channel. Silt in Mamaroneck's rivers worsens their flow exacerbating flooding, and is expensive to fix.

