

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Minutes of May 16, 2023 Meeting

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

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

Minutes of the April 18, 2023 Meeting were unanimously approved.

Report on Recent and Upcoming Events

- **May 6 Mamaroneck Community Cleanup (Mandy, Christi, Jen).** Christi reported that the relocation of the Clean Up to Columbus Park worked well; even with the change of date it was well attended. Mandy, who was not present at tonight's meeting, sent a report that there were 72 in attendance, according to waivers collected and 55 in attendance according to the check in list. Check-in with the waivers was a bit chaotic, which could account for the discrepancy. There was a discussion of having the waiver and a check-off box for service letters to be done online at registration. The compost give away was popular. The shredder was underutilized.
- **Library Tree Planting** was well-attended, including most of the CFTE.
- **Larchmont Earth Day** was well-attended, with several members of the CFTE in attendance.
- **Sarah Neuman Pollinator Garden Planting** is planned for May 24 with a rain date of May 31. Per David, Mandy suggested there be a ribbon cutting.
- **Repair Café—October 15.** Debbie reported that the CFTE has participated in this for the last 2 years, along with the TOM and the VOL. CSC/CEC points are awarded for doing 2 Cafes within 5 years. Debbie will look into documentation for last year. The TOM has scheduled this year's for October 15, tentative location in Hommocks Community Center. Debbie will follow up with the TOM to coordinate activities. She will try to reschedule the Energy Smart Homes Program at the Mamaroneck Library for October 22, so that it does not conflict with the Repair Cafe

Update on Proposed Mamaroneck Greenway (Kate and Christi).

Kate gave a report on the weeding and planting progress at Rockland Pocket Preserve (RPP). The Village planted 5 trees on April 27; volunteers planted 80 DEC shrubs the next day. An extra 77 Dogwoods and 59 Pussy Willows were given to Village residents. Kate was able to arrange with the WJWW for a hydrant hookup to water RPP. She and

her husband have been doing the watering thus far. The VOM Parks Dept will arrange for hookup to the hydrant; 2 hoses and a sprayer were donated by the Industrial Area Committee. Kate stressed the importance of watering until the plants are established. So far, Rene and Debbie have offered to help with watering. 250 plants were purchased through Bedford Healthy Yards who also donated plants along with residents and committee members.

Kate discussed work to be done on "Nostrand Pocket" located at Howard and Nostrand on May 17th. The village planted 25 DEC Pussy Willows there. The plan is to pull out the Japanese knotweed and plant 25 DEC shrubs and donated ferns near the river to help with erosion. Christi discussed using black contractor bags to cover and kill off the JKW.

Jerry reported that we do not have the final resilience study from the DEC, but it should be out in mid-June. They are recommending that properties along the rivers be bought up to reconstruct a floodplain, and enlarge various bridges, eg. Tompkins to accommodate floodwaters; the Governor has already earmarked money for this per Jerry. David discussed showing them our proposal for the Greenway; Jerry will follow up on this. We will pursue this initiative after having coordinated with DEC and SLR (its consultant) Jerry will ask Mark from SLR to present its study and proposals at our next meeting.

Leaf Blower Issues

- **Tri-municipal coordination (Kristen Andersen, guest)** David will try to reschedule for July as Kristen was not able to attend tonight.
- **Gas-powered leaf blower buyback (Liam, Jerry)** Both Foley's and KRB have agreed to participate. Up to 50 Village Residents can hand in gas landscaping equipment at the DPW and get a \$100 voucher to use for electric equipment. Jerry proposes doing it on 3 Saturdays in late summer, which is how Bedford structured their program.

Jerry is hiring a Code Enforcer for 18 ½ hours/week for leaf blower and other violations. He will have a new number to call. 3,000 door hangers were distributed; letters were sent to Condo managers.

Taylors Lane (David, Jerry) David reported that the DEC is still working on a site management plan. David will contact Mike Murphy regarding this and the removal of the fence around the area. We will need to coordinate with the Town of Rye as they own part of the property. Lou and Jerry will take the lead on arranging such

coordination. Once these issues are resolved and a site plan is proposed, then it can be put before the BOT and opened for public comment.

Strengthening Protection for Wetlands & Wetland Buffer Areas (David) David discussed the need for clarification on the law for building in wetlands and buffer areas. Jerry will ask Greg Cutler, the VOM Planner, and the Village Attorney to look into this. David made a motion which was seconded by Liam and unanimously approved that “The Committee urges the Board of Trustees to enact legislation to strengthen protection of the Village’s wetlands and wetlands buffer areas, as recommended by the Comprehensive Plan”.

Updates

- **Comprehensive Plan.** Jerry stated that the public hearing is set for June 5.
- **Bike Lane Project.** Jerry stated that they will look into getting grants; looking into a bike lane on Halstead.
- **New York State Green Purchasing Communities Program.** This is being done by the Village.
- **Executive Order (or other action) on native plants.** Needs to be on the BOT agenda.
- **I-95 flood mitigation issues.** Jerry set up a meeting with the Thruway Authority; staff from Shelly Mayer and Steve Otis’s offices were on the call. The TA staff said they will look into the issues, although they minimized their contribution for flooding in Mamaroneck. Lou suggests we document outflows at the next rain event. Jerry will continue to follow up with the TA. Kate said that another meeting was scheduled for June 18; she wants them to look at retention and collection of water from the Thruway. Lou presented our proposal at the BOT work session. SLR can help to document the Thruway contribution to flooding.
- **Fenimore bump-out plantings.** Per Jerry, plants have been ordered and will be put in and watered.
- **CSC/CEC**
 - **Government Operations Climate Action Plan. Internship.** Per Liam: Dan Jerry, Ellen Silver and he met; the plan is to have the intern work on the Climate Action Plan and documentation so that the VOM can apply for Silver CSC status in January. The CAP will need to be adopted to meet this goal.
 - **EV Charging Stations** Per Jerry, 10 stations are being installed in July. Decision has to be made as to whether customers will have to pay for parking in addition to the \$1/hour charging fee.

- **Rewrites of Leave the Leaves, DPW brochure, Campaign for EnergySmart Homes, and GridRewards** will be top of the agenda in June due to time constraints tonight.
- **New Signage for Food Scrap Program.** Signage was not discussed. Jerry reported that as of May 19, Suburban Carting Transfer Station will no longer be taking food scraps. Residents in the area have been complaining about rodents. The VOM will need to transport the 6 tons/week to Cortland. The scraps are currently stored in closed plastic bins at the Recycling Center. Discussion focused on a possible grant for a truck as raised by Jen or buying a truck and on the possibility of coordinating with other nearby communities. Jerry will speak with other municipalities who are also composting; Liam will reach out to the Scarsdale Volunteers; we may need to discuss with George Latimer as it is the county who dictates where we go with our garbage.

Public Comment. Bernie Camarda, Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee, spoke to show his support for the work Kate has been doing on the I-95 flooding. He suggests that our 2 committees get together to work on stormwater management. Their committee has also talked about strengthening protection for our Wetlands and Wetlands Buffer Area.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Sullivan