

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**June 20, 2023 Meeting**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. at the VOM Courthouse.

**Minutes of the May 16, 2023 Meeting** were unanimously approved.

**Introductions:** Leah Roffman, a Duke University student, will be attending the CFTE meetings and helping the Committee on projects over the summer. She has been volunteering at Rockland Pocket Park.

**Report on Recent and Upcoming Events**

- Sarah Neuman Pollinator Garden Planting (Mandy). The Ribbon Cutting event for the garden was very successful. LMC Media was there. Mandy would like an article in the Patch if anyone is interested in writing one. She will send videos and a paragraph to Robert Ingenito.
- Milkweed in Harbor Island (non agenda item). Despite efforts to alert the VOM about protecting Milkweed in Harbor Island, Dinah reports it was mowed down. To follow up, Dinah will draft a report and a resolution to be put on the next agenda. Kate suggests that the issue be presented in person to the BOT in conjunction with the native plant resolution that is to be addressed at the next BOT work session.
- Summer Block Party—July 26. The Committee will not be participating in this or in the Library event this Thursday.
- Repair Café—October 15. Debbie reports that this will be our third year participating along with the TOM and the VOL. She is working on the CSC credits for participating last year and for this year, as well. It is tentatively scheduled to be at Hommocks this year. Dan is also volunteering to assist in planning this event.
- Monarch Festival. Mandy states that she is not able to chair the event this year. It is a huge undertaking; last year we had over 800 participants. The VOM needs to take on a more major role in organizing and running the event. Lindsay agrees to be the point person for the CFTE. David will follow up with the VOM regarding their participation.

**Presentation by SLR:** to be rescheduled.

**Presentation by Sara Powell (New York Sea Grant).** Sara presented information on her organization and their projects. We focused on their Grant Writing Assistance Program which can reimburse for grant writing. The program is well funded and will remain open as long as there is money available. We would need to identify grants we want to apply for; one project can be applied for at a time. Sara agrees to follow up with a short list of grants that are a good fit for us. There is a July 28th deadline coming up, and another one opening next year in March.

**Update on Proposed Mamaroneck Greenway** (Kate and Christi) Kate brought us up to date on the Nostrand Pocket, located at the Nostrand and Howard intersection. She will do a site plan over the summer. The bank has been planted. The large gravel covered area will stay, in keeping with a European style of garden. At Rockland Pocket Park, she and her husband, Eric, installed a sprinkler system. The VOM will install a backflow on the hydrant there on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule. Volunteers can sign up through a SignUp Genius to attach the nearby hose to water the park for 20 to 45 minutes. Volunteers will be needed over the summer to weed and cut back mugwort to help the seedlings grow. The Park sign is ready to be installed, two out of four benches have been paid for, concrete is to be poured. Ribbon cutting will be in the fall. The two parks will be incorporated into the Greenway.

David recommends that we all look at the Report in the Observer to get a better understanding of the Flood Mitigation Plan.

## **Other Updates**

**Campaign for EnergySmart Homes.** Debbie reports that the Mamaroneck Library presentation has to be rescheduled from October 15 due to the conflict with the Repair Cafe. It is now scheduled for Sunday, September 24 at 2:30. Currently scheduled to speak are Liam's Geothermal contractor; Dave Finch, a VOM resident who recently installed a heat pump; and a speaker from Energy Management Systems who installed Debbie's insulation. Someone from Sustainable Westchester will also be attending. We will be scheduling a planning meeting soon if anyone else wants to get involved.

**GridRewards.** We need to follow up with the Village regarding the resolution that we sent. **Food Scrap Program.** The addition of a \$52 annual fee to participate in the pick-up program was discussed. There was concern expressed that this could decrease participation and serve as an impediment to the growth of the program. The Committee will ask for statistics on both participation and tonnage as the policy is implemented to evaluate its effect.

**Taylors Lane** David reports that there has been no further action. He will follow up with Mike Murphy from the DEC; Dan will start to investigate solar installation with NYSERDA. Christi brought up the idea of a walking trail similar to the one in the new park in Harrison.

**Bike Lanes.** David reports that the VOM is not going to pursue the SS4A Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program. He will add it to next month's agenda to get feedback on the rationale for this.

**CSC/CEC** will be meeting soon; no current updates.

Remaining Agenda items will be held until next month.

The Committee plans to meet in July, but will not have an August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35

Respectfully submitted

Debbie Sullivan