

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MINUTES OF July 20, 2021 MEETING

Members Present: Ellen Silver (Chair), David Freeman, David Styler, Dan Kushnick, Liam Robb O'Hagan, Debbie Sullivan, , Maria Karsou.

Missing: Renée Crabtree, Tim Whitney, Christi Young, Mandy Forlenza Sticos.

The meeting was held in person at the Village Courtroom, 169 Mount Pleasant Avenue; called to order at 7:14 pm.

General Discussion

The minutes of the Committee's June 15, 2021 meeting were approved.

CFTE Logo Contest: Debbie announced that the winner, a Mamaroneck High School Student and 2 honorable mention winners, one from Mamaroneck and one from Rye Neck High Schools, have been notified. Ellen will be sending them gift cards from the anonymous donor, which David Freeman is facilitating. The first place design was the overwhelming winner. The designer has agreed to work with the committee on the logo to better reflect our community and mission. Debbie will follow up with this. Mandy will be contacting all the entrants regarding the pot and seeds that they are each eligible to receive. The winners will be formally announced at a later date.

Metro North Tree Clearing: A letter has been sent by the CFTE, Sustainability Collab and Village of Larchmont Environmental Committee to Governor Cuomo regarding the tree clearing along the Metro North Tracks. David Freeman raised the issue of the status of a local tree ordinance regarding cutting down trees. Ellen mentioned that the Town of Mamaroneck had done a white paper on the tree canopy which noted that the Village of Mamaroneck's canopy had less coverage than surrounding areas. It was decided that David Freeman would reach out to Beverley Sherrid, the chair of the VOM Tree Committee, regarding the proposed tree ordinance to offer our support.

Sustainability Collab: Ellen reported on the July 13 meeting of the Collab. The TOM has a CSC Bronze designation which has to be renewed every 3 years. A Robomower demonstration was done at the meeting. She asked if there was interest in a Robomower for the Village which the grant money from our CEC campaigns could be used for.

Repair Café: Ellen noted that we will be doing this in conjunction with Larchmont. It is set for October 16 at the Senior Center on the Post Road. This event was ready to go, but was cancelled at the beginning of the pandemic. Several of our members have offered to help out. Ellen noted that there will be more activity on planning in the fall. It was noted that finalization of the plan is important for CSC/CEC qualification. We will ask for a status update for our next meeting.

Comprehensive Plan: This is currently on hold.

Clean Energy Communities/Climate Smart Communities

Ellen and David gave a presentation to the Village Board of Trustees regarding establishing a CSC/CEC task force and the assignment of a coordinator from the Village. David will follow up with Mayor Tom Murphy.

Two community campaigns, Grid Rewards and Community Solar, have been completed. The deadline to apply for the \$5,000 grants for completing the campaigns are August 23 and October 20. Suggestions for the grant moneys are LED light bulbs to be distributed to lower income residents, salary for the CEC coordinator, electric leaf blowers for Village Employees to replace the currently used gas blowers.

Ellen noted that a priority is to get credit for work that has already been done by the Village, but has not been credited. We still need about 3,000 points to qualify for an additional \$10,000 grant.

Liam is to follow up on the Stretch Code.

Fall Clean Up Event

Mandy will be heading this event. Ellen noted that it should be done before the leaves fall and hide much of the trash. Early October was suggested as the weather is likely to still be warm enough. Liam suggested it be done after Halloween to pick up trash generated then.

Food Waste Recycling Program

Ellen reported that ASAP have told her they have trouble getting drivers on Fridays since the Recycling Center closed on Saturday mornings. Ellen reports that the statistics on the amount of composting are flat. The closing of the Center on Saturdays seems likely to have impacted the amount of composting. Westchester County pays for some of the transportation of food scraps to encourage composting making it less expensive to the Village than regular trash transportation. David made a motion to advocate for the reopening of the Recycling Center on Saturdays. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Ellen will follow up with the VOM BOT.

Ellen reported that Scarsdale has new recycling initiatives of books, eyeglasses and wine corks.

Electric Vehicle Chargers

Dan will follow up with the VOM on the installation of new chargers. It was noted that ConEd and the State both contribute to the cost of the chargers so there is basically no cost to the Village.

Healthy Yards:

Ellen reported that the CFTE will be supporting June Ottinger of the Harbor Island Conservancy to establish a Serenity Garden near the pump house and wall in Harbor Island at the intersection of Orienta and Boston Post Road. Everyone will work together to establish a pollinator pathway in the area.

David Styler gave an update on leaf blower enforcement. He met with the Village Chief of Police who said no warnings or fines have been given. Committee members felt that the noise from the blowers has lessened this year. Numbers of complaints are the same as last year in May, down from 16 to 14 in June and so far in July only 6 compared to 12 in July of 2020. He will follow up with the chief on how complaints were disposed.

David Styler reported that all but one of the 12 community garden plots are being used. There are 4 returning gardeners and 2 new people. Three newcomers dropped out and the 3 spaces reserved for the Community Resource Center were not being used, so the active participants are using those spaces. He suggested that a pollinator garden could be put in nearby next year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Sullivan