

# **VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

## **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2021 MEETING**

Members Present: David Freeman (Acting Chair), Renée Crabtree, Dan Kushnick, Debbie Sullivan, Christi Young, Katherine Dehais

Also Present: Kelly Wenstrup (Trustee, Village of Mamaroneck)

Members Absent: Mandy Forlenza Sticos, Ellen Silver, Tim Whitney, Laim Robb O'Hagan

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 7:40 pm.

### **General Discussion**

David Freeman welcomed Katherine Dehais to the Committee.

The minutes of the Committee's November 16th, 2021 meeting were approved.

Kelly advised that she was recently appointed as Village Board of Trustees (BoT) liaison to the Committee, but that she would soon be resigning from the BoT and moving to Florida. We presumably will be advised in due course as to the identity of our new BoT liaison.

### **Clean Energy Communities/Climate Smart Communities Task Force Update**

David updated the Committee on the Clean Energy/Climate Smart Task Force's last meeting. David reported that the Task Force's recommendation that Ellen be appointed Task Force Coordinator had been forwarded to the BoT. Kelly advised that the BoT had approved this appointment. Jerry Barberio and Dan Sarnoff are working with the Task Force to move forward on certification of the Village as a CSC.

### **Climate Emergency Declaration**

After a brief discussion, a resolution was passed to urge the BoT to join with Westchester County and many neighboring communities in declaring a climate emergency. We will request the BoT to task the Committee with developing a list of actionable items and specific plans to address the emergency.

### **Food Scrap Recycling Program**

As previously reported, the private food scrap collection service known as ASAP will stop collecting on December 31, 2021. A resolution (copy attached) was passed to urge the BoT to consider providing curbside pickup of food waste. David agreed to provide Kelly Wenstrup with a copy of the resolution.

### **Pollinator Pathways Projects**

Renée [Crabtree](#) gave a brief update on the various projects the local chapter of the Pollinator Pathways is involved in. Kelly suggested Renée meet with Jerry Barberio to discuss moving some new projects with the Village forward. Renée also agreed to ask Elizabeth Poyet, who heads the local chapter, to present at one of the Committee's upcoming meetings.

### **River Maintenance and Flooding**

Katherine Dehais led a discussion on riverbank maintenance in the Village. Katherine has submitted to the Village the question of who is responsible for maintaining the riverbanks - homeowner or Village - and is awaiting a response. The Committee agreed that the amount of garbage and invasive species clogging the Sheldrake and Mamaroneck Rivers exacerbates the risk of flooding, and that this is a problem that needs to be addressed. It was observed that this issue might be usefully addressed in the Comprehensive Plan that is currently under review by the BoT.

## **Conservation Plaques at the Harbor**

Kelly agreed to write to Jerry Barberio about maintaining the conservation plaques in Harbor Island.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Crabtree