

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15TH, 2020 MEETING**

Members Present: David Freeman (acting Chair), David Styler, Renée Crabtree, Dan Kushnick, Christi Young, Liam Robb O'Hagan, Debbie Sullivan, Mandy Lorlenza Sticos

Members absent: Ellen Silver, Maria Karsou, Timothy Whitney

Also Present: Dan Natchez (Trustee), Amber Novak (Village Planning Office)

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 7:35 pm.

General Discussion:

The minutes of the Committee's November 17th, 2020 meeting were approved.

David Freeman welcomed Debbie Sullivan and Mandy Sticos to the Committee.

Dan Natchez noted that due to budgetary cuts relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, Village staff will no longer be available to officially run or host Committee meetings from January through March, 2021. If the Committee decides to hold meetings during this period, they must be recorded and live-streamed to YouTube. A motion was passed by the Committee to continue to hold meetings during this period. Dan Natchez noted that he is willing to work with the Committee to aid with the holdings of these meetings.

Goals for 2021:

David Freeman asked the Committee to put forward suggestions for goals for the Committee for 2021. The following topics were discussed:

1. Beautification of the Mamaroneck River to make it a more attractive and useful part of the community
 - Amber noted the Industrial Committee has looked at this topic and that the boundaries of the Industrial Business Zone would need to be considered in any plan.
 - Amber agreed to look at the Village's Comprehensive Plan to see if there is any discussion of this topic and report back to the Committee.
2. Mamaroneck Harbor Clean-up
 - Amber agreed to look into whether there was any grant money available to use for a more permanent solution to keep the harbor free of debris such as better capture at the mouth of the Mamaroneck River and other tributaries entering the harbor.
3. Increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations in the Village, move the Village toward becoming a Certified Smart Community and consider how the Village can align itself with the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
 - Given the economic strain that the Village is currently under due to the pandemic, priority would need to be given to initiatives that do not require funding.
 - Mandy agreed to look into what funding is available from sources such as ConEd and government organizations for these types of initiatives

4. Improve the handling of autumn leaves in the Village and move lawn maintenance companies away from using gas leaf blowers and mowers to electric
 - The Committee would like to find ways to move the Village away from piling and collecting leaves from the roads in the autumn such as:
 - ◆ Increase leaf mulching by residents
 - ◆ Using yard-waste bags rather than piling leaves in the roads
 - Registration of lawn maintenance companies and the codification of lawn maintenance practices for companies operating in the Village
 - ◆ David Styler agreed to send information from the Village of Larchmont and the Town of Mamaroneck on this topic to the Committee
5. Increase community involvement in the Committee's initiatives
 - Contact the Environmental Studies department at the High School to tap high school students looking for opportunities to perform community service
6. Improve the use of social media by the Committee
 - Mandy offered to assist in this area and will reach out to Robert Ingenito to discuss ways to improve the Committee's outreach via social media
7. Spring Clean-Ups
 - Try to make it more fun and get more students involved
8. Increase community and Village participation in the Pollinator Pathways initiative
 - Increase awareness of this initiative by getting more information into the community
 - David Styler agreed to send information to the Committee from Katherine Desmond who is one of the leaders in the community for this initiative
9. Assist the Board of Trustees of the Village to determine the best use for the Taylor Lane site
10. Assist the Board of Trustees of the Village to finalize the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to environmental issues
11. Continue to support the Food Waste Recycling Program
 - Continue community outreach by selling kits at the Winters' Farmers Market and other opportunities to increase participation in this program

Hoyt and Bishops Avenues Land near Railroad Tracks

Dan Natchez noted that the Village has been trying to get the MTA to replant trees on the Bishops Avenue side of the tracks in the area recently cleared by the MTA. He suggested that the Committee could help by writing letters to the MTA to urge them to rectify this situation.

Community Feedback

David Styler noted that Village resident, Stuart Tiekert, asked that the Committee be made aware of the oil spill on I95 which has found its way into local waterways. Also, he would like to Committee to be aware of the run off from local fields into the Harbor Island Park playgrounds.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Crabtree