

## **Village of Mamaroneck - Committee for the Environment**

### **MINUTES for June 18, 2019**

**Location: Village Courthouse**

**Start time: 7:45 PM**

**End time: 9:35 PM**

Present: Katherine Desmond, David Finch, David Freeman, Colin Goldberg, Robert Ingenito, Marc Karell, Ellen Silver, David Styler, Christi Young

Absent: Martin Hain, Maria Karsou

Also Present: Dan Natchez, Trustee Liaison and Matt Da Silva, Assistant Village Planner

### **General Discussion**

**Vote to Approve Minutes** for May 2019 meeting - postponed, not ready

**Village Mosquito Plan** - Trustee Natchez reported that the Committee's Mosquito Resolution, submitted to the Board of Trustees, has not been voted on yet. However, the Board is "on it" and does not want to "play catch up" for next year.

While the June 24th Village Board Meeting will have low Trustee attendance, disabling a vote on the resolution at that time, he agreed that it would be important for a Committee Member to be present at the 6/24 Work Session and/or Board Meeting in order to indicate the Committee's expressed position on spraying and control of mosquitoes.

David Freeman stated the he would be able to do so.

**Comprehensive Plan Update** - Matt informed us that Neil Desai is in the process of finishing up various chapters and that a Draft is expected to be ready by late August / Early September.

Village Staff will then give feedback on the final Draft, as will Board of Trustees and other Village Boards and Commissions. Thus, the Committee will have one more chance to review it.

Matt mentioned that The Sustainability Chapter is the most complete, thanks to substantial input from the Committee. As the timeline moves along, Matt will keep the Committee informed.

## **Two New Initiatives**

### **1. CFTE Fall 2019 Leaf Mowing Demonstrations**

In order to begin generating public awareness of a possible phase out of Village-wide Fall leaf collection, Leaf Sub-Committee Members Katherine, David Styler, and Martin will prepare to schedule leaf mowing demonstrations this Fall, in Village Parks.

Committee Members at large were surprised to learn that Fall Leaf Pick-Up has been totally eliminated in neighboring municipalities such as New Rochelle and Hastings.

How does that work? Where do the leaves go? The sub-committee hopes to come up with answers, ideas and methodology for starting such a program in the Village of Mamaroneck. The County's "*Love 'em and Leave /em*" Program, has resources available to guide municipalities.

Once there is sufficient information, the subcommittee will contact Matt who will help facilitate a meeting with Village Department of Public Works, Recreation, and the Village Manager. There has been an overall positive response to the idea by Village Staff.

### **2. Replacing Village Grassy Areas with Wildflowers**

Dave Finch revisited a CFTE initiative of a few years ago to consider selectively replacing Village mowed grass fields with wildflowers. The Committee charged Dave with pursuing this with the Village Manager.

## **Sustainability Committee**

### **Healthy Yards Project**

Katherine, CFTE representative for the *Larchmont Mamaroneck Healthy Yards Project*, provided newly printed brochures and handouts from the LM-HY Committee, launched in late April.

Having been contacted by various residents, LM Healthy Yards is concerned that enforcement of Westchester County's *Neighbor Notification Law* may not be taking place. The law requires anyone using pesticides, whether a private

homeowner or hired pesticide business, to warn neighbors in advance of any pesticide application on a property.

Briefly, the Committee concluded that knowledge of, and adherence to, the Pesticide Notification Law is essential for a safe, healthy environment in the Village of Mamaroneck. Matt will look into this.

### **Climate Smart Communities Grants** - deadline 6/26/19

Trustee Natchez was able to report that the Village applied for and has received such a Grant for the rehabilitation of a section of sea wall on Mamaroneck Harbor, in Harbor Island Park.

### **Monthly Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Report** -

Matt provided the Committee with a Memo detailing the weekly use, from July 2018 to July 2019, of the EV charging station in the Hunter Deck, opposite the Police Station. The station was installed with a NYDEC grant. Based on the upward trend, use is anticipated to keep growing.

From now on, the Planning Department will provide the Committee with a monthly update on the usage of that EV charging station.

## **Recycling Sub-Committee**

### **Food waste Initiative**

Food waste recycling program stats were updated by Matt. He provided each Committee member with separate Memos from the Planning Department showing graphs of *May and June Monthly Food Waste (Tons per Month)*. The overall trend is positive and upward.

In April 2.76 tons of food waste was collected for composting by the Village of Mamaroneck.

In May, 3.97 tons of food waste was collected for composting by the Village of Mamaroneck.

The Committee discussed the current trends shown on Matt's Memos.

Ellen pointed out that the Food Scraps effort in the Village of Mamaroneck has just passed the one year mark. She learned recently that tonnage collected in Larchmont's first year was less than ours.

Ellen mentioned that she has been considering what might be the "next push, or needed bump" for the Village Program.

Bottom line is to increase the number of food scraps.

Robert gave a **Power Point Presentation on the completed Food Waste Survey** which was circulated via social media (i.e. Nextdoor and Facebook) and email and netted 364 responses. The goal of the survey was to identify factors contributing to the program's successes and to identify where room for further growth can be found.

The Rye Neck Neighborhood had the most responses to the survey's questions. The Environmental Club at Rye Neck High School has a team of students who will pick up resident's scraps from homes, using a pick up truck.

To a question on the survey " Is it convenient? ", 62.1% said "inconvenient", 37% said "convenient". That information generated discussion of curbside collection, increasing locations for drop off, and spreading the word.

The Human Resource Center (HRC) will be approached to increase Washingtonville's awareness and participation.

**Food Scrap News:** The Mamaroneck School System has received a \$127,000, three year grant for reduction of food waste. Rye Neck schools are not included.

### **Repair Cafe**

Marc informed the Committee that The Town of Mamaroneck wants to set up a *One Day Repair Cafe*, at which volunteers will be available to fix small appliances, for free, at a convenient location like Mamaroneck High School.

*Repair Cafes* started in Scandinavia. The idea is to reduce the enormity of landfills that are degrading the world's environment.

### **4. TerraCycle**

The Committee briefly discussed a resident's proposal to set up a TerraCycle bin for collecting disposable razors. No decision was made.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Desmond