

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MINUTES OF JULY 21st, 2020 MEETING**

Members Present: Ellen Silver (Chair), David Styler, Renée Crabtree, David Finch, Dan Kushnick, Christi Young, David Freeman, Martin Hain, Maria Karsou, Timothy Whitney

Members Absent: Liam Robb O'Hagan

Also Present: Dan Natchez (Trustee), Dan Sarnoff (Assistant Village Manager), William Long (Village Planning Director), Robert Ingenito (Village Public Information Office)

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 7:30 pm.

General Discussion:

The minutes of the Committee's February 25th, 2020 meeting were approved.

Ellen welcomed the Committee members back after a 5-month break due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ellen brought members up-to-date on her experiences in the Village coping with the new rules of social distancing, wearing masks in public and other observations. She then invited other members of the Committee to share their experiences and observations and a general discussion of this topic ensued. Dan Sarnoff shared that the Village has been very busy throughout the pandemic with heavy use of the Villages parks and other public spaces. Dan noted that all staff are now back to work, as previously all staff had been sent home with the exception of essential staff. The Village Court is scheduled to reopen shortly and the Village Offices may be open to the public around Labor Day.

Mosquito Control Program Update:

Dan Sarnoff noted mosquito numbers so far this summer have been low in comparison to prior years. No fogging or spraying by the Village has been necessary. In early June, catch basins were cleaned out and treated with a larvicide. Catch basins are being cleaned on a rotational basis. The lack of rain has helped to keep mosquito numbers down.

The Sustainability Collaborative Update:

Ellen noted that the Sustainability Collaborative ("Co-Lab") has invited us to attend their August 6th meeting along with the Larchmont Environmental Committee. Ellen will be attending and welcomed other Committee members to also attend. The Co-Lab has formed a sub-committee to review the health risks of 5G networks. Ellen noted that the Committee and Village manager need to revisit the Village of Mamaroneck's Wireless Telecommunications Facilities zoning code in light of the new technology being broadly introduced.

Leaf Blowers Update:

Dan Sarnoff restated the Village's policy is a total ban on leaf blowers from May 15th through September 15th. The Co-Lab has been working on drafting legislation and would

like all three municipalities to adopt uniform rules relating to the use of leaf blowers. Martin Hain noted that he considers the bigger issue to be enforcement rather than the wording of legislation. Robert Ingenito noted that he has received a lot of opposition to the Village's current rules banning the use of leaf blowers during the summer months. It was noted that the main reasoning behind the ban is health issues created from the dust as well as air and noise pollution. The Committee agreed to work with the Co-Lab on this issue.

Village of Mamaroneck Comprehensive Plan

Dan noted that the Village is in the midst of updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will include a chapter on Sustainability. The Committee will be asked for input on this chapter and a new draft is expected shortly. It was noted that the Town of Mamaroneck is also embarking on an update of its Comprehensive Plan.

Trash in the Harbor and the Sound

Ellen noted that she perceived an increase in the amount of trash in the Harbor and Sound since the COVID pandemic. She reached out to the Marine Education Center and was told they carry out a clean up every Friday and would welcome the Committee's involvement in this. Martin Hain noted that, in his role with Save the Sound, he is involved in a project to find funding to invest in a machine that removes trash from harbors. Currently Baltimore Harbor operates a machine and Martin agreed to send the Committee a link to more information about this project.

(Follow-up: Martin emailed the Committee after the meeting adjourned with details of the Mr. Trash Wheel project.)

Maria Karsou also noted an increase in the amount of trash on the I95 ramp from Mamaroneck Ave and asked whose responsibility it is to keep the ramps clean. Dan noted that this is the responsibility of the New York State Thruway Authority and that he will follow up with them to have this ramp cleaned.

(Follow-up: Jerry Barberio emailed the Committee on August 3rd noting that the clean up of the ramp occurred two weeks ago.)

Composting Program Update:

Dan Sarnoff reported that the tonnage of food waste collected by the composting program has increased during the pandemic. Ellen noted that she will follow up with the County regarding paying for the carting of the compost from Mamaroneck to Ulster.

Community Gardens

It was noted that plots are still open in the community gardens. Applications for lots should be made through the Village Manager's office.

Robert Ingenito noted two items that he considered would be of interest to the Committee:

1. State Senator Shelley Mayer is sponsoring a garden competition which is being run by submitting photos of garden entries. More details can be found online.
2. The Board of Trustees of the Village has established a Community Choice Aggregation (energy) Program with Sustainable Westchester. More details can be found on the Village's website.

The Committee agreed to forgo the August meeting in keeping with past practice due to vacations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Crabtree