

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15TH, 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, Liam Robb O'Hagan

Also Present: Dan Natchez (Trustee), Jerry Barberio (Village Manager), Jason Pinto (Village Recreation Supervisor, sitting in for Robert Ingenito)

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

General Discussion:

The minutes of the Committee's July 21st, 2020 meeting were approved.

There was a general discussion about PowerDMS, which the Village is now using to distribute notices, policies, etc. as it provides better tracking capabilities. Emails come in from Alert Service. Also, a number of Committee members have been receiving spam emails. The Committee was asked to forward any suspicious emails to Jerry or Karen Johnson for follow up.

The Sustainability Collaborative Update:

Ellen, David and Maria attended the Co-Lab meeting held on August 18th, 2020 and gave the following report:

- Leaf Blower Restrictions

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. The legislation is aimed at eliminating the use of gas-powered leaf blowers by December, 2022, replacing them with electric-powered leaf blowers. Battery-powered lawn mowers are also being considered but are not part of this legislation. Violations of the leaf blower legislation will be issued to both the home-owner and the landscape company.

[Update: The Village of Larchmont's Board of Trustees unanimously passed a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers effective January 1, 2022. The use of electric leaf blowers is limited to the month of April for spring clean-up and October 15-December 15 for fall clean-up.]

A new registration system is being considered for all landscaping companies that operate in our municipalities. Registration is free but attendance to two educational sessions on green landscaping practices per year is required.

Jerry felt that a registration system would be fairly easy to implement. Dan Natchez recommended the Committee ask for a work session with the Village Board of Trustees to discuss adopting similar leaf blower legislation and registration system.

- 5G Network Readiness

The Co-Lab has also been studying the potential impacts of 5G networks that may be established in our area. They are recommending each municipality update its zoning code in relation to cell towers. Ellen noted that the City of Rye had recently updated its zoning code in this area and thought it might be useful to use as a template to update the Village's code. Dan Natchez recommended the Committee ask for a work session with the Village Board of Trustees to discuss updating our zoning code.

Update on Trash in the Harbor and Mr Trash

Martin Hain noted that Derecktor Shipyards had offered to fabricate a Mr. Trash Wheel for use in Mamaroneck Harbor where the Mamaroneck River empties into the harbor. It was noted that a grant and/or fundraising would be needed to carry out this project. Martin agreed to reach out to his contact at Derecktor Shipyards to get a cost estimate for this project.

Ideas for new initiatives:

Ellen introduced the following new initiatives:

- **Speaker series** – Consider inviting people to come to speak at our meetings to generate new ideas for our community. Examples include inviting neighboring environmental committees to speak about their green initiatives; have someone speak about the Green New Deal's impact on our municipality; have educators speak about climate studies that could be offered in our local schools. Ellen would like the Committee to provide input to move this forward.
- **Public Programming** – It was noted that LMCTV will air content provided by the Committee as long as it falls within our purview. In addition, Robert Ingenito will post to the Village's website and social media pages any appropriate content we prepare. Tim Whitney offered to form a sub-committee to move this initiative forward.

Food Waste Recycling Program Update:

Jerry did not have the recent tonnage of food waste collected by the composting program but agreed to provide this information to the Committee when it is available. Suburban Carting was awarded the contract to transfer the compost to the Ulster station. The Committee discussed next steps to help increase participation in this program. Ellen

agreed to ask a member of the Scarsdale Environmental Committee to our next meeting to share details about their composting program.

Martin Hain then shared the new Sound Health Explorer tool recently launched by Save the Sound. He agreed to ask Robert Ingenito to post the link to this tool on the Village of Mamaroneck's website.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Crabtree