

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20TH, 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), Amber Novak (Village Planning Office), William Long (Village Planning Office),

Guest Speakers: Michelle Sterling and Ron Schulhof from the Village of Scarsdale's Ad Hoc Committee on Food Scrap Recycling; Caitlyn Carpenter, Michaela Loughan and Fatima Khan, MHS juniors and members of the Sunrise Westchester Hub

Member of the Public: Mackenzie Minguillo (MHS senior)

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

**General Discussion:**

The minutes of the Committee's September 15th, 2020 meeting were approved.

**Food Scrap Recycling Program:**

Ellen introduced Michelle Sterling and Ron Schulhof from the Village of Scarsdale's Ad Hoc Committee on Food Scrap Recycling. Scarsdale was one of the first municipalities in Westchester to adopt a Food Scrap Recycling Program. There are now 21 municipalities in Westchester running similar programs.

Michelle and Ron have been focusing on three main initiatives:

1. Make it cheaper for municipalities to run composting programs
2. Run education/out-reach programs
3. Handle composting material locally

Regarding the first focus, Michelle and Ron worked with George Latimer to help launch the Westchester County hauling program. Once municipalities sign up to join this program, the cost per ton to haul composting material will drop from \$30/ton to \$15/ton.

Regarding the second focus, the Michelle noted the Scarsdale Committee aims to participate in 1-2 events per month. Examples of events include setting up a table at outdoor farmer's markets, at the recycling center or outside local apartment buildings. It is important to have composting kits available to purchase at these events. Out-Reach programs could include reaching out to local real estate agents to ask them to use the composting kits as house-warming gifts to new residents, contacting people who are already part of the program to spread the word to neighbors and friends, posting on social media, especially local FB groups such as Moms and Dads groups, gardening groups, etc., adding a flyer to Village mailings such as tax notices and the annual recycling brochure (already have one-page dedicated to composting in the on-line brochure). The Scarsdale committee also uses a dedicated email address ([composting@scarsdale.com](mailto:composting@scarsdale.com)) to answer questions about the

program. Michelle also recommended making the composting kits easily available to all residents including making them available on-line through the Village's website.

Regarding the third focus, this is a more long-term goal where municipalities have composting sites that can handle the composting material locally, eliminating the need to haul the compost to an external site, and ultimately sell the composted material back to the community to use locally.

Ellen thanked Michelle and Ron for sharing their ideas with the Committee. Michelle and Ron then left the meeting.

### **Danskammer Power Plant Plan**

Ellen then introduced Caitlyn Carpenter, Michaela Loughan and Fatima Khan, MHS juniors and members of the Sunrise Westchester Hub who talked to the Committee about the plans to build a new power plant in Newburgh, NY powered by fracked gas from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The students asked the Committee to recommend the Village Board of Trustees sign a resolution stating that the Village is against the development of this power plant. This resolution would then be sent to the New York State Governor's office, the various US and State senators, congressmen and assemblymen, and Westchester County officials. The Committee thanked the students for their presentation and noted that members needed more time to research this issue and agreed it would be added to the agenda for the next Committee meeting. Caitlyn, Michaela and Fatima then left the meeting.

### **The Sustainability Collaborative Update:**

The Tri-Municipal Initiative to add bike lanes to the Boston Post Road was discussed. Ellen has previously sent a 12-page presentation on this proposal to the Committee. A number of objections to the presentation were raised by Committee members. It was decided that the Committee was not comfortable with the proposal as it stands but does endorse the idea of bike lanes in the community and would be happy to participate in a study to find better options for bike lanes through the Village. Ellen agreed to communicate this to the Sustainability Collaborative.

### **Food Waste Recycling Program Update:**

Ellen noted in the agenda that the YTD food waste stats as of 9/30/20 were 40 tons as compared to 27.4 tons YTD 9/30/19. These stats can be found at the following link: [https://www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf826/f/uploads/foodwastedata\\_0.pdf](https://www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf826/f/uploads/foodwastedata_0.pdf)

Martin Hain noted that his and David Styler's terms will expire, and their membership on the Committee will terminate, as of the December meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renée Crabtree