

Village of Mamaroneck Committee for the Environment

Minutes for February 26, 2019

Members Present: Katherine Desmond, David Finch, David Freeman, Colin Goldberg, Martin Hain, Robert Ingenito, Marc Karell, Maria Karsou, Ellen Silver (Chair), David Styler, Christi Young

Also Present: Liaison Dan Natchez, Trustee

I. Approval of Minutes

II. Mosquito Control

- A. As spring and the mosquito spraying season is approaching, the Committee discussed ways to educate Village residents about combatting the proliferation of mosquitos as well as informing them about the VOM spraying program.

Katherine Desmond presented her findings on a product called “Dunks” that kills mosquito larvae and can be placed in rain gutters. Ms. Desmond cautioned that these cubes should not be placed in standing water that will run off into rivers and Long Island Sound where mosquitos are a food source for aquatic life.

At present, the County distributes these free to homeowners but residents must travel to Mt. Kisco to obtain them. Ms. Desmond will look into the possibility of having a distribution center established in southern Westchester, perhaps at the Village DPW.

- B. It was also noted that the Village has applied for a license to spray for mosquitos for the upcoming season. However, it is not yet known exactly what type of spray will be used. The Village commonly sprays Harbor Island, the marshes surrounding Taylor Lane, and areas of Shore Acres.
- C. An alternate raspberry extract-based spray is available for \$75 monthly for Village residents concerned about toxicity level of the spray the Village will choose.

III. Clean & Green

- A. Planning continued for the April 27th event. Coordination will be worked out with the VOM Parks Department. Ideas for educational activities include the docking of the Soundwater Sloop in the harbor, food waste recycling demonstrations, wildflower seeding, and a tour of the sewage treatment plant.

- B. Committee members volunteered for the following activities: solicit donations for coffee, donuts, etc. from Village merchants; contact the Recreation Department to inform families of the event who will be at Harbor Island for soccer games; contact local media sources to publicize the event; contact schools and scout troops about volunteering for streamside and harbor clean-up assignments; and create posters and circulars.

IV. Healthy Yard Exhibit

An exhibit is now at the Mamaroneck Library through March displaying books and other educational materials including information on how to communicate with landscapers about healthy lawn choices.

V. Leaf Blowers

The harmful effects of 2-stroke leaf blowers were discussed. These include toxic chemical emissions, air-borne particulate matter, and the health consequences that result, especially in the bodies of young children and pregnant women. Also discussed was the contrast between gas blowers and the less harmful electric blowers. The Committee will continue planning actions to confront this issue in future meetings.