

Village of Mamaroneck • Committee for the Environment AGENDA

November 15, 2022 @7:30 pm Village Courthouse

General Discussion/Announcements:

- Vote to approve minutes from October 2022
- Environmental Bond Act passed!
- Retiring committee members/new leadership
- Update on proposed resolutions from October meeting – Junior committee member, leave the leaves, and update sanitation brochure for leave the leaves and food scrap pickup program
- Mayor’s Monarch Pledge – review 2022 actions
- Taylor’s Lane – update
- NYS Birds and Bees Protection Act
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/284561182238823/permalink/1056292021732398/>
- Transfer Station odor problem

Community Engagement:

- Fall Clean and Green - recap

Healthy Yards

- Leave the Leaves – Village newsletter
- Native plantings at Fenimore/Prospect Curb Extension; fall planting - Kate
- Rockland pocket butterfly habitat – Update on work done; proposed resolution to name park and do fundraising - Kate
- Proposed gas powered leaf blower buyback - Ellen

Clean Energy Communities/Climate Smart Communities:

- Update from 10/19 Meeting - Ellen
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory - Ellen
- Community Campaign for Energy Smart Homes - Debbie
- New York Stretch Code - Liam

Food Scrap Recycling:

- 306 households
- [Food scrap monthly tonnage](#)
- DEC Food Scrap grant
- New signage indicating pickup service needed

Public Comment:

- Public comments to be allowed at the end of each meeting. Each person limited to 10 minutes unless otherwise agreed to by the CFTE.

Draft **VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**
MINUTES OF October 18, 2022 MEETING

Members Present: Ellen Silver (Chair), Lou Young (Village Trustee), David Freeman, Dan Kushnick, Liam Robb O'Hagan, Renee Crabtree, Christi Young, Katherine Dehais, Debbie Sullivan. **Members Absent:** Tim Whitney, Mandy Forlenza Sticos

The meeting was held in person at 123 Mamaroneck Avenue.
Called to order at 7:34pm

General Discussion

The minutes of the Committee's August 2022 meeting were approved.

The Repair Cafe was held on Sunday October 16th. It was well attended with about 59 people bringing in items for repair. Dan and Debbie volunteered; the Committee had a table at the event. The Cafe was a joint effort of the TOM, VOL and VOM. It is a creditable action for the Climate Smart Community.

New Committee Members. BOT approval will be needed to add a junior member. Once it is approved, we will reach out to the local high schools. Committee memberships will be coming up in December. Several members' 3 year and second 3 year terms will be ending. The Village will have to see who is returning. The process of filling the current vacancy has been slow.

NYSAAC Conference. Ellen and Debbie attended the virtual conference focused on the Environmental Bond Act which is on the November 8th ballot. The BOT passed a resolution endorsing the Bond Act. This committee is in favor of the endorsement and of the Bond act. We will be posting on our social media accounts.

Community Engagement

The Mamaroneck Monarch Butterfly Festival was a huge success. There were 764 attendees. Mandy, along with Ellen, Debbie and Kate, organized and ran the event. Local organizations and businesses participated with crafts and performances. Kids ran an obstacle course simulating the monarch migration, and planted seeds in a milkweed garden Harbor Island. Park and Rec Department cosponsored the event

Fall Clean and Green. Liam and Ellen will be organizing the event which is on November 5th, 9:30-12. There is a sign up genius. Everyone is asked to get the word out; put it on social media. Liam will be demoing mulching leaves with his electric mower.

Healthy Yards

Leave the Leaves. Discussion focused on how to educate residents.

The committee unanimously passed the following resolution: "The CftE urges the BOT to adopt a policy to leave un-mulched leaves around trees and in flower beds to protect

beneficial insects such as fireflies, and to mulch leaves on lawns to retain their nutrients, wherever practical. By doing so, the Village will lead by example and will further encourage homeowners to do the same on their properties. The Village should provide area signage about the practices to educate residents.”

A second resolution was unanimously passed: “The CftE requests the BOT to have the DPW include in their annual informational brochure to residents instructions, where possible, to leave un-mulched leaves around trees and in flower beds to protect beneficial insects such as fireflies, and to mulch leaves on lawns to retain their nutrients. Information on food waste recycling is to be included in the brochure as well.”

Ellen brought up that Bedford used their CSC grant money for a buyback program. Residents can exchange their gas powered blowers or other gas powered lawn equipment for coupons to be used at a local hardware store for electric equipment. It was discussed whether we should use the \$5,000 CSC grant that we received for such a program as the grant money has still not been used by the Village to buy electric equipment. A question was raised as to what happens with the gas equipment that is traded in.

Rockland Pocket Butterfly Habitat. Kate has spearheaded the effort to clear this 5,000 sq foot area of invasives and turn it into a site with paths, benches and native plants and trees for local residents and wildlife to enjoy. There is a flyer and sign up genius published about the clean up on October 22 and 23. So far, 64 people have signed up. Letters for students will be handed out at the event. The Tree Committee is involved in planning; they have ordered 14 native trees for the area. There is some poison ivy, but most of it is not in the area that will be done by volunteers. The Japanese knotweed presents a special problem and will need to be treated separately. Invasives is being considered for the inventory of invasives.

River Maintenance/Restoration. Kate reports that the ACE spoke at the BOT work session on 10/11, (attended by both Lou and Kate.) Asked about the status of the “grassy culvert” tweak, they said that whether it was a grass or gravel bottom, the design particulars would be addressed when they got to that part of the project this coming next year. Lou reports that there has been no further communication from ACE on the project.. The VOM is still waiting on permits to begin dredging.

Taylor Lane. David asks that this be added to the next agenda. A brief discussion of possible usages for the area focused on the installation of a solar field.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectful submitted,

Debbie Sullivan