

Meeting Minutes

Village of Mamaroneck Committee For The Environment (CFTE)
Held in Village Courtroom, 169 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Start time: 7:40 PM

End time: 9:20 PM

Present: Ellen Silver, Katherine Desmond, Jeff DeToro, David Freeman, Colin Goldberg, Martin Hain, Maria Karsou, Phil Horner (former Member), Trustee Leon Potok - Liaison to Village Board, Trustee Victor Tafur, Village Planner Greg Cutler, Village Engineer and Head of Department of Public Works - Hernane DeAlmeida

Absent: Kristen Carpenter, Marc Karell, Jennifer Keefe, David Styler

General Discussion

I. Opening Comments Ellen announced her appointment as new Committee Chair. Members introduced themselves to new member David Freeman. Ellen informed the Committee that a teenage Boy Scout would be present, a neighbor of Jeff DeToro's, interested in the environment. The Committee agreed that **the order of the evening's agenda be shifted** to accommodate a Water Quality Sub-Committee report by Phil Horner, long time CFTE Member, no longer serving.

Phil reported on a **public presentation** he and Colin gave at the 12/11/17 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees in Village Hall. His topic pertained to the **Village's 2017 Annual Municipal Stormwater Plan (MS4)**. He delivered a written list of suggestions and ideas from the CFTE that would strengthen and improve future MS4s. The list was compiled last Spring. It included areas of content, such as adding more details in certain sections as well as better allowance for, and inclusion of, timely **public input**.

Colin reported that he gave the Board an update on the Committee's **Food Waste Initiative**. See below, under Agenda item: "Recycling Subcommittee",

Aside from the presentation, Phil also expressed concern to members over **knotweed, an invasive plant** growing thickly in areas of the Village. He showed a picture. He hoped the CFTE might be able to help eliminate it somehow. Hernane was aware of the problem and was interested. He informed the

Committee that **he had put out a bid** and that there had been no "takers". The plant is difficult to remove as one small root left behind will take over. No decision was made on this issue.

2. Confirmation of Sub-Committee Assignments resulted in assignments for: Water Quality - Katherine Desmond, Parks and Gardens - Colin and Martin, Recycling - Maria and Ellen, Sustainability (members to be decided), Marketing and Outreach - Martin and Colin.

Colin pursued clarification of **a resident's recent interpretation** of the nature, scope, authority, and responsibilities of the Village Committee for The Environment. Trustee Potok stated that the Committee is a Volunteer Advisory Committee with no fiduciary responsibility. It's purpose is to advise the Board of Trustees. It can decide itself how it is conducted,. All meetings are open to the public.

3. 2017 Missing Minutes - need to be retrieved. A blank 2018 Meeting Minutes sign up sheet was passed around table. Attending members signed up to perform minute taking duty for the year ahead.

4. Mission Statement (MS) and Goals - Follow up was done on the unanimous decision made in late 2016 to update and define Committee mission and goals. Prior to the meeting, Ellen emailed the existing MS to all members, asking for suggestions and input. Katherine took a stab at editing it at home, but ended up drafting **a rewrite** which she read aloud for all to hear. Colin had researched other Environmental Committee mission statements online and read that of Chevy Chase, Md.

Trustee Potok suggested that a **temporary MS sub-committee** be formed to continue the effort. Ellen, Colin, Martin, and Katherine agreed to work on it.

5. Annual CFTE Clean and Green Event - The event was described for new members. To refresh members' memory, Katherine brought Martin's flyer for the 2017 Event, which never happened due to three consecutive "rain outs".

Martin re-iterated the idea that smaller CFTE Event(s) ought to be considered, done quarterly, one in each season. Ellen mentioned the idea of a lawn leaf mulching demo in the Fall.

Martin and Colin said they would work on an event calendar for the coming year.

6. Water Quality Subcommittee/Connection to CFTE The recently formed Village Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) and its connection to the CFTE was discussed briefly. There have just been two meetings of the WQAC. Trustee Tafur touched on the broad concepts contained in the Board's Resolution to form that committee. Katherine, who is serving on the new WQAC, remarked that it seems to be too early to know just how the two committees will work together to approach Village water quality issues, for the short term and into the future.

7. Recycling Subcommittee - A lengthy discussion of the Committee's **Food Waste Initiative** was had, with much information and updating by Hernane and Trustee Potok, who pointed out that a logistical **implementation plan** needs to be worked out with the Village Manager. Trustee Potok indicated that he expects further discussion to take place soon, at a Board of Trustees Work Session. Hernane delved into the prime issues needing review: **site location, cost estimate, traffic, and manpower.** There is a positive, "can do" attitude toward the project especially as it is already up and running in neighboring communities.

Colin read the list of **Ten Food Waste Recycling Points** that he presented to the Village Board on 12/11/17. Copy attached to these minutes.

Ellen mentioned that the Town of Mamaroneck is buying **the film "Wasted"** and will show it in the Larchmont Library in March 2018. Members agreed that's "a must" for Village of Mamaroneck residents to see. Perhaps in the Emelin Theater, as part of the CFTE Food Waste Initiative's "soft launch".

Textile Recycling - The year-long lease with the Village's vendor/operator is coming to an end. Maria would like to see better signage for the public on the bin, utilizing **the word "textile"**. Hernane agreed to send images to all CFTE members with options for word change(s). He is also looking at a few **other bin locations** around the Village: possibly Phillips Park and one near Metro North.

The Committee continues to try and understand the *pro and cons* of different vendor operations. Bottom Line for CFTE members lies in answering these questions: "What company will achieve the Committee's ultimate goal: **to keep textile waste out of a landfill?** Does the CFTE espouse **the concept of "Donating"** or **"Recycling"**?"

A **donation bin** asks for residents to give their good, resalable items to a middle man to sell. *The unusable leftovers (may) go into landfill.* Thus, a portion of the used material is, in fact, kept out of a landfill. A **textile recycling bin** asks residents to deliver their used textiles to *a company that facilitates the transformation of one material into a re-usable other material, thus preventing any material at all from being delivered to a landfill.*

This ongoing discussion led to mention of a used textile collector at the Larchmont Farmers Market. Comments ensued about a possible set up at the Village of Mamaroneck Winter Farmer's Market location at St. Thomas' Church every Saturday.

The topic of **battery recycling** was on the agenda but will be taken up at another meeting.

8. **Agenda Contribution** - Ellen read a possible CFTE Agenda Item from absentee member Marc Karell who also serves on **Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Committee**. He would like to discuss the idea that their Committee would like to "bring us into the loop". Marc wanted to solicit feedback on who is interested and when is a good time to meet, i.e. day of the week and time of day.

9. David Freeman asked: Where does **Climate Change** fit into the CFTE Mission? What can we do as a Committee?

On that final note, Greg Cutler informed the Committee that he had just attended a **Regional Planning Network** meeting, formed to provide a unified voice for the region as it begins to prepare for **sea level rise**. The group's website is: 4thPlan.org

The network includes the NYC area CT and NJ. The focus is on Community Based Actions. CFTE Members were impressed that Greg represented our Village, situated as it is, on the shore of Long Island Sound.

