

Meeting Minutes

Village of Mamaroneck Committee for the Environment (CFTE)
Held in Regatta Conference Room, 123 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck
Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Start Time: 7:40 PM

End Time: 9:10 PM

Present: Ellen Silver (Chair), Katherine Desmond, Marc Karell, Maria Karsou, Greg Cutler (Village Planner), Jeff DeToro, David Freeman, Jennifer Keefe, Martin Hain, Victor Tafur (Trustee), Leon Potok (Trustee and Liaison to Village Board)

Not Present: Colin Goldberg, Kristen Carpenter, David Styler

Ellen called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the meeting minutes from December. The minutes were approved without correction. Ellen requested that committee members sign up to take minutes for future meeting slots if they have not already done so. Marc volunteered to take minutes for the March meeting.

CFTE Mission Statement

Ellen solicited comments on the two draft mission statements that had been distributed to the group via email for review. Members agreed that the final language of the statement should be simple and straight-forward, crafted so that it encompasses all potential stakeholders, and include our goal to inspire/educate the community.

Version #2 appeared to be the one preferred by the committee. A few minor edits (remove “throughout the year” from the final sentence in Paragraph 2 and replace “that will promote the health and welfare...” with “to promote the health and welfare...” in the final sentence of Paragraph 1) were suggested. Ellen will resend the revised Version #2 statement out for one final round of comments.

Marketing and Community Outreach

Martin announced that he has secured a web address (vomenvironment.com) for the CFTE website and will be working with Colin to create a skeleton of the new website in the coming weeks. Greg was asked to help provide a calendar of 2018 Village events so that the committee could avoid conflicts and help decide the events at which it would

be appropriate for CFTE to have a presence (such as a table to help answer community questions and promote our initiatives).

The group decided on a tentative date (Saturday, April 21 at 9 am) for the 2018 edition of Clean & Green. Possible activities include harbor cleanup, tours of the SoundWaters schooner, treatment plant tours, tree planting, and lawn mulching demonstration. Jennifer announced that the Sheldrake Environmental Center will be holding its annual Earth Day event the following day and we agreed to help her publicize it during Clean & Green. Given the relatively short amount of time remaining to plan our event, it was decided that the February CFTE meeting would be postponed for one week (to now be held Tuesday, February 27th at 7:30 pm in the Village Court Hall) rather than cancel it outright due to the local school Winter Break on the week of the 3rd Tuesday.

Marc mentioned that a joint meeting of the environment committees of the Village of Larchmont, the Town of Mamaroneck, and the Village of Mamaroneck is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 6 from 6-8 pm at the VFW Hall on Boston Post Road in Larchmont. All CFTE members are invited to attend.

Katherine spoke about the Mamaroneck Library's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification that was awarded upon completion of the new building in 2013. Different levels of certification can be achieved – the library was awarded Gold level status (meaning, among other things, that all materials used to construct the new library facility can be recycled) and the group agreed that this designation should be better publicized in the community as an example of the Village's commitment to sustainability. The idea of having CFTE sponsor tours of the library and its LEED features during Clean & Green was suggested (David will mention this to his wife, who serves on the library board). There was some brief discussion regarding whether the Village should mandate that all new development meet a basic level of LEED certification and it was decided that the related expense would be problematic.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Greg reported that a press release was issued on Friday, January 12 officially launching the Village's Comprehensive Plan Update project. The consulting firm NV5 has been retained to help assess progress towards meeting the 2012 comprehensive plan recommendations and create a road map for implementing future recommendations regarding (to name a few aspects) adaptation to sea level rise, energy efficiency, carbon

footprint reduction, and zoning amendments to support neighborhood character during future development. The majority of the consultant's fee will be paid from a New York State sustainability/resilience grant received by the Village, with the remaining money coming from the annual budget.

The project is expected to last approximately 10 months and a schedule will be posted on the Village's Comprehensive Plan Update website (planvom.org). Interested parties can sign up for alerts on the website. CFTE and other Village committees will be included in the review process.

Sustainability

Some discussion occurred as to the potential benefits of the Village obtaining "Climate Smart" community certification from the State of New York. Only 16 communities in the state (including the Town of Mamaroneck) have achieved this status. Such a designation would help us to secure future grant monies from the Department of Environmental Conservation. Other nearby communities (such as Bedford and Dobbs Ferry) that have been deemed "Climate Smart" may be able to help us with the application process, which could potentially be orchestrated at low cost by an intern or a local college student with an interest in this field. Marc has a list of applicable "Climate Smart" resources and will distribute to the group.

David broached the subject of a Climate Action Plan (which would include a village greenhouse gas inventory, for example) and whether such a document would fit within the framework of our Comprehensive Plan. Victor commented that now would be a good time to explore development of a Climate Action Plan in conjunction with the Village's efforts on updating the Comprehensive Plan and that the Board would support this type of initiative. Jennifer, Marc, and David agreed to meet separately as a Sustainability subcommittee to gather related information and make recommendations to the group.

Recycling

Leon reported that the grand opening for the Village's initial food waste recycling program will take place on March 15 at the recycling center on Fayette Avenue. The committee will initiate our publicity campaign for the program at Clean & Green in April.

The Village prefers that the new program be rolled out gradually so that necessary adjustments can be made as residents begin taking advantage of the service.

Maria has been in communication with Serge Lazarev of Green Tree, a locally-based non-profit textiles recycling organization that seems to fit most of our criteria for a responsible textile recycler – they provide their own collection bins and liability insurance, sort collected materials nearby (in the Bronx), do not use intermediate for-profit clothing buyers, and have a company mission of removing unwanted textiles from the waste stream. The committee urges the Village to strongly consider replacing our current textile recycler with Green Tree when the contract comes up for renewal on April 1. Before then, Maria will make arrangements with Serge Lazarev to attend a future CFTE meeting so we can get more information about his company. In the meantime, the group agreed that negotiations with our existing textile recycler to modify its bin labeling can be suspended. Potential locations in the Village for additional textile recycling bins is under discussion.

Ellen shared some information she had collected in Scarsdale about their battery recycling program and expressed an interest in starting a similar program in our Village. A battery recycling bin can be purchased for \$70 (which could be placed in a location with high foot traffic, such as the library) and periodic pickup or shipping of used alkaline batteries when it is full can be arranged (cost to be determined). One committee member would need to be designated as the lead person for the program. The group agreed that a pilot site could be tried out to gauge resident interest. Ellen will follow up with Scarsdale to obtain more information.

Marc made the group aware of a database on the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Sanitation Commission website called “Waste Wizard Recyclopeda” (<https://lmsanitation.org/waste-wizard-recyclopeda>). The database can be searched for information on how to recycle many common household materials.

Taylor's Lane Update

Jeff reported that he had spoken with Kim Eierman of EcoBeneficial about potentially hiring her as a consultant to help with the development of passive recreation uses for the Taylor's Lane Landfill site. Leon mentioned that the Village is currently awaiting recommendations for site use from the State of New York and would advise that committee efforts to develop the site hold off until a response is received (hopefully

within 6-12 months). The parcel of land has a complicated past and was used for municipal dumping (some of which included hazardous materials) for many years until its closure and eventual designation as a NY DEC Superfund site. As a result, future project planning for the site needs to be especially sensitive to resident concerns.

Public Comments

No public comments were submitted.