

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**December 19, 2023 Meeting**

**Members Present:** Dan Kushnick (Chair), Lou Young (Trustee), Jen LeClair, Lindsay Reitzes, , Katherine Dehais, Dinah Koehler, Mary Shiffer. On Zoom: Jerry Barberio (Village Manager), Debbie Sullivan, Renee Crabtree, Christi Young. **Absent:** Liam Robb O'Hagan, Rachel Hook

The meeting is called to order at 7:33p.m. at the Village Courthouse.

**Minutes** of the October 17, 2023 Meeting are unanimously approved. Minutes of the November 19, 2023 Meeting are unanimously approved.

**Introduction** of members, new member Mary Shiffer.

**Discussion Of Goals for 2024 and any need for New Sub Committees.** Dan asks that we come prepared to the January meeting to make decisions about goals, priorities, subcommittees. All agree that Education and Communication are a priority. Kate suggests Lindsay take the lead on this. Jen raises the issue of updating the CFTE webpage. Discussion about submitting materials on our various areas of interest to Jerry who will work with Robert on updating. Debbie reminds the CFTE about a previous discussion of budgeting for a web designer. Jerry suggests that the CFTE have a budget of about \$10,000 for promotional materials, education, web design. Members need to think about what we need so it can be budgeted in the first BOT meeting in February. Kate suggests making a master contact list of all the various individuals and groups that have been involved in our projects. Lindsay states that Liam started a list when he was organizing the Clean Up. She also suggests we plan a calendar for the year at our January meeting. Mary suggests having a CFTE introduction sheet prepared for realtors to give to people moving into the VOM.

**Committee Reports**

**Taylors Lane.** Jerry asks that this be added to the next agenda when he hopes to have more information from Americo, a solar panel company, regarding the feasibility of installing and using solar panels. He does not feel that it is appropriate, at this time, to reach out to Shelly Mayor or Steve Otis to get help moving forward on a plan.

**Ecologically Sound Open Spaces.** Kate wants to create a database to organize each space, log what is planted, what care is needed, who is responsible for care. Mary suggested having people/groups adopt spots to care for. Kate states knowledgeable people are needed to care for the plants, but groups, such as scout troops, could do

trash pick ups. Also need signage for plantings for educational purposes. Suggestion made to keep Pollinator Garden/Open spaces as one subcommittee.

**BOT Year End Report.** Kate attended with Liam. Regarding the Leaf Blower Law, landscapers showed up opposing the previously-passed law. Committee then discusses focusing on educating residents re healthy yards rather than focusing on leaf blowers, and making a list of landscapers who we give a stamp of approval to for their environmentally sound practices.

**Composting/Healthy Yards.** Jen reports being approached by one of the Observer reporters to help with an article on recycling. She would like to focus on food scrap recycling. Debbie mentions that Marina from the Observer had also contacted her. Debbie asks if there is interest in touring the Household Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF). Jerry offers a 15 person van for the trip. Debbie will look into scheduling. Jerry agrees when Jen asks about getting a new, larger Compost sign which mentions the pick-up option to be placed near the Post Office.

**Comprehensive Plan.** No discussion

**Public Education.** Discussed under goals. Christi does not feel she is the right person to head up these efforts, but is willing to help.

**Climate Smart Communities.** Dan reports the CSC is applying for Bronze Certification in January and will then work toward Silver Certification. Next meeting is January 10th at 1pm.

## **Updates**

**Leaf Blower Laws.** Already discussed.

**Unified Solar Permit.** Per Jerry, this was not voted on at the last BOT, and is on the January 8th agenda.

**Energy Stretch Code.** Not discussed.

**Gas Powered Equipment Buyback.** Jerry reports that there is \$1,200 left. He will run another buyback in the fall. Might be able to include snow blowers; he will investigate.

**Food Scrap Recycling -Status of Subscriptions.** Jerry reports that there are 110 subscribers which exceeds their predictions. The amount of material continues to increase. **Jerry asks to be reminded before the next meeting to get actual numbers from James.** Lindsay met with Curbside about composting in apartment buildings. Jerry says he is willing to pilot composting pick-up at one of the new

buildings behind the Regatta. The truck now has a lift gate to pick up larger, rolling containers.

**Updating “Leave the Leaves” literature.** Jen will send the literature to Jerry.

**Mamaroneck Greenway.** Kate has been working with Millenium on submitting for the LI Sound Study Grant. She is hoping to get \$100,000, but it will probably only cover design for a portion of the Greenway. She is going to work with Taryn to find other grants to start work, especially on acquiring private land. She volunteers to be a liaison to the Flood Mitigation Committee. They support the Greenway and acquisition of private land. She will be following up with Westchester Land Trust who can help with easements. She brings up maintenance of the Greenway, pointing to plantings that were done in Columbus Park years ago, but not maintained. She wants to organize volunteers to cut vines in CP; FMC may be interested as the vines impact flood control. Jerry agrees to assign Kyle (Marine Ed) to help with instruction; Kate will organize volunteers.

**EV Charging Stations.** Con Ed still has issues; April is the new projected install date.

**Energy Smart Homes.** Debbie reports Liam was able to meet with the Building Dept and get a list of all the heat pumps installed since February. She has reached out to Lauren Brois of SW to see what the next step is to submit for the first level and apply for the first \$5,000 grant.

**Strengthening Protection for Wetlands and Wetland Buffer Areas.** Not discussed

**CFTE Webpage/CSC Webpage.** Discussed previously.

**Bike Lanes.** Committee agrees we have already supported this.

**New Business(9:20-9:30)**

**Invasive Vines.** Discussed under Mamaroneck Greenway.

**Artificial Turf.** The Committee agrees we are opposed to using Artificial Turf in the VOM.

**Funding & Location Community Gardens.** After some discussion, a decision is reached to locate the gardens near the Senior Center in Harbor Island. The Village will move and do any work required. Rene will follow up with the exact location, size of garden; BOT will need to approve.

**Affordable Housing.** So far, plans seem to incorporate environmental elements: solar panels.

**Climate Smart Community Membership.** Jerry states that the CSC members need to be officially named at the January 8 BOT meeting. Debbie states that it is not a subcommittee of the CFTE, but was established as a separate Taskforce. Lou will follow up and present at the Jan 8 BOT.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Sullivan