

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
and Climate Smart Community Task Force
Meeting Minutes, November 1, 2021

via Zoom

Attendance: Karen Vastola, Dave Avrin, Daniel Convissor, Nana Welch, Char Weigel, Sarah Smiley, Nicholas Kaufman, Judi Knispel, Jared Rodriguez, Sacha Spector, Kirsten McLaughlin

SHEAC Agenda:

Replacement for Jessica Fox - Dave would like to step down as chair of SHEAC to give others an opportunity. Dave proposes that Sarah step in as co-chair with Dan. Dave would assist Sarah in this role.

Various updates - Dan met with Anthony - Fremont Pond/water quality project is moving forward. An RFP is being issued to figure out best way to control storm water inflow from Rte 9 before it goes into Fremont Pond.

Beekman Avenue streetscaping construction will begin this fall. Clinton Streetscape project is being designed by the county.

Tree code - under legal review, may be some modifications to the current cod. Commitment on the part of the village to plant 15 trees. The trees were planted downtown.

LED lights - when a streetlight needs maintenance it is converted to LED. Dan and Jared will follow-up perhaps with a formal recommendation from the committee. The NYPA program contract was not accepted by the village. Dan raised a motion that the CSC/SHEAC write a joint letter to the BOT regarding implementation of LED light changeover. Motion passed.

Dan to follow up on Complete Streets implementation; Jared suggests revising the resolution to include enforceable design standards.

Route 9 Active Transportation - support letters from Irvington, Tarrytown, Dobbs, Hastings, Latimer and two county legislators. The state DOT is assigning a liaison to the steering committee to move the project forward. There will be a celebration at Hudson Anchor November 3rd , 7-9.

Traffic study for Pocantico to Pierson was presented to the BOT. Reconfiguration scenarios were discussed - incremental change looking at the geometry of the intersection, timing, and reconfiguring the crosswalks. The engineers were asked to expand the study to Beekman and south of Beekman to conduct studies for those areas as well. Staying with the existing engineer but have him expand the scope of the study. They propose restriping, re-timing, and widening the lanes (going from 4 to 2).

Grants and consultations:

Commuter study for the Edge on Hudson by the trails committee - looked at a shuttle bus service, circulator loop or van service. How to improve bike and walking access to both train stations.

The village applied for a downtown revitalization grant - to improve downtown.

American Recovery act - the village got \$1M over two years to use. Close budget gaps due to pandemic issues; water and sewer infrastructure upgrades, connectivity for low/moderate income communities.

Composting education grant - Dan will follow up with Fiona. Dan asked Anthony if new mailings regarding recycling can be distributed. Kevin Smith (the new DPW foreman) is working on a booklet for distribution. Sarah and Dan will meet with Anthony and Kevin to discuss further.

Riverside Drive - connection between the two manors. RFP is going out to design out a pathway

Community Solar carport on Elm Street - Jared has three proposals he will bring to a work session. The project could generate revenue for the village. Could also get a discount on village power.

CSC items:

Community Engagement Campaign - collaboration with high school students - Nick is the high school liaison, take on community projects - student led but supported by the village government. Nick thinks there a lot of staff, students and teachers who would like to be active. Energy - may require more from the school and student body. The waste reduction/composting would be a good start. Can teach children starting at the young ages (Scarsdale has a program). Sarah had started discussions with John Paulding pre-pandemic. Older students could mentor the younger students; also have community crossover with local restaurants. Climate change education is another possible engagement. Char suggested bringing in the life center as well to get maximum community impact. Nick will keep us posted on next steps.

Green Fleet Policy ideas - Judy - Mamaroneck and Beacon - more vehicle chargers - we only have Elm Street and a garage on Broadway. With a fleet of electric cars, the village can save money. Implement idling policies. Baseline of current inventory - smallest most efficient vehicle that can do the job. Minimum efficiency standards, not just the cost of the vehicle but also maintenance and what is the return on investment. There are rebates and grants available for electric vehicles. Discussion about the anti-idling policy. Suggested to have discussion with the head of the DPW regarding current policies regarding idling of village vehicles. Sarah will follow up.