

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, June 6, 2016

Kendal on Hudson

Attendance: Dave Avrin, Dan Convisser, Claire Davis, Beverly Jansen, Bhavya Reddy (Chair), Martin Smolin

Regrets: Francois Rjeili, Glenn Rosenbloom

Kendal Guests: Harriet Barnet, Linda Bermas, Juanita Carmi, Muriel Fox, Edward Hanin, Ann Holloway, Annette Leyden, Eleanor Leyden, William Pennell, Susan Phillips, Ruth Sherman, Norman Sissman, John Sorice, Stephen Unger, Anne White, Deborah Wood

1. Overview. This meeting was held in a conference room at Kendal; the first part of the session was a presentation by Bhavya of the scope and mission of SHEAC. Dan and Claire presented an overview of Complete Streets; Dave outlined the proposal for a Natural Resources Inventory and explained how it could be helpful in planning; he also spoke of the Pocantico River Watershed Committee.
2. EAC Table at TASH. We are participating the Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow Farmer's Market on June 18th. Kendal residents were invited to join us. Beverly will bring materials for an educational game designed to encourage young children to recycle - and thus involve their families. Our table should include literature on invasives. Claire will try to order multiple copies of brochure and info sheets on invasives for us from NYNJ Trail Conference and/or NYS DEC.
3. The Riverkeeper Sweep. This was a very successful program. More volunteers than were actually needed showed up. For next year we should probably start earlier. Some plantings could be done.. We could include removal of invasives, since there was not a lot of litter to pick up.
4. Downtown Revitalization. Bhavya would like us to have a full discussion on this subject, but because of time constraints we will put it off to a future meeting. Claire, particularly interested in the procedures involved in doing the revitalization, would like to be appointed to the Revitalization Committee.
5. Complete Streets. Claire attended and addressed the Village Board on the concerns of SHEAC.
6. Birch Close. Martin and Francois (mostly Francois) cut back many vines along the trail and met informally with neighbors who were using the trail. They plan to follow up.
7. Dave Avrin reported described the Pocantico River Watershed Committee and the location and extent of the watershed for the enlightenment of the Kendal guests.
8. Natural Resources Inventory. Dave also reported that there will be a meeting on June 16 dealing with the NRI. He would like the Planning Board to inform SHEAC in advance about environmental issues so that we could offer advice and expertise. This would be only an informal review.
9. Claire reported on lead testing in local schools. Two water fountains in Sleepy Hollow HS/MS were found to contain higher levels of lead than is recommended by national standards. First draw of water from one tap was also taken. 13 locations in Morse School (1st & 2nd grade) and Washington Irving School (3rd - 5th grades) were found to have elevated levels on first draw. After flushing for 30 seconds,

two locations continued to have elevated levels

We do not know the significance of these findings or the possible dangers to the schoolchildren. The Committee agreed we should work with Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Committee to ensure a proper outcome of lead water remediation in the schools.

10. East Parcel. Guests asked for clarification on what was and where is the East Parcel. Dan explained that the East Parcel is on the east side of the tracks. (The housing is going on the west parcel, which is between the tracks and the river.) Other issues remain, for instance, how much land would be diverted from park to parking and how stopping vehicular traffic at pedestrian crossings would be enforced. After the residents left, the Committee reconvened to conduct business, including agreement that we should take a position regarding parking and bike lanes in the East Parcel planning process. Dan will draft it.

Kendal residents who attended seemed very interested in the work of the committee and some expressed the wish to work with the village or the committee on various issues. Anne White, a former member of the St. Paul Planning Board, recently moved to Kendal and is very knowledgeable about planning and environment issues. She intends to attend SHEAC meetings in the future.

A Kendal resident mentioned how difficult it is to walk to various from Kendall to Phelps Hospital which is just next door. In particular, she mentioned having to scramble up a hill through shrubs to get to the pharmacy because there was no paved path.

Deborah Wood is chair and sole member of the Kendal Recycling Committee, which she describes as practically defunct. She and Martin will try to revive it as the Environmental Committee with a broader mandate.

-Martin Smolin
Acting Recording Secretary