

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, January 7, 2019

Attendees: Dave Avrin - presiding, Nana Welch, Claire Davis, Francois Rjeili, Daniel Convisor, Melanie DuPuis, Beverly Jansen, Glenn Rosenbloom (BOT Liaison)
Guests: Karen Vastola, Maureen Fleming, Sarah Smiley, Diana Loja, Charles Zekus, Jessica Fox

Minutes for December 3, 2018 meeting approved electronically

1. Watershed Protection (grant status, medallion project, lawncare initiative) - Dave, Claire, Jessica Fox

Village received a NYS Water Quality Improvement grant for Fremont Pond for approximated \$250K. Grant includes both public education for watershed residents on best practices and direct action in the Peabody Preserve (constructed wetlands, plunge pools, etc.) to reduce contamination of the pond. Glenn said the next step is to work with Fiona. This is a priority for SHEAC and The Friends of Fremont Pond.

Jessica Fox from the Friends provided update on the Healthy Yards Workshop that will be held on March 16th at the Senior Center. Glenn said that the Village will coordinate childcare during the Workshop. Westchester has an IPM Committee that meets every month. They have a pesticide certification class that Jessica is looking into attending. She is also reaching out to Healthy Yards Campaign through Bedford 2020.

2. Walkability Report Implementation Update - Claire & Dan

Completed a two-week pilot project based on SHEAC walkability report. Involved bumping out the curb, using cones, in front of Tijuana. Removed two parking spaces. Owner of Tijuana reported to Wayne Ballard that his customers complained, and Claire and John Leavy plan to talk to the Tijuana owner. Dan prepared a survey and collected results, which were overwhelmingly in favor of making the curb extension permanent. Claire is trying to work on going to next steps, which would be flexible posts tacked into the street. We also asked to do a second pilot project, either at Beekman and Lawrence or at Depeyster & Cortlandt. Going for the intersections that have the highest crash data. Glenn wanted to know if there would be any parking spaces eliminated (Ans: possibly one at Beekman and Lawrence). We will be talking to the Fire and Police Department. Karen asked about Irving and Elm Street as a problematic intersection (Walkability Report addresses a specific set of intersections; other locations may be looked at in future). Glenn stated that the next step at Pocantico & Beekman would be to have a public hearing to get broader public input on long-term elimination of 2 parking spaces. A public hearing is required for any permanent parking space changes, because it involves amending the Village code.

3. Climate Smart Community Status Update- Nana & Claire

The conclusion at the December 2018 meeting was that SHEAC would become the CSC Task Force. But it was decided instead to create a separate task force to include DPW Superintendent Wayne Ballard, 6 of the 7 SHEAC members (Francois opted out), plus residents Karen Vastola and Sarah Smiley. Anthony has told Glenn that Paula McCarthy, Village Clerk will be working with the Task Force to put together data, and Glenn said he would speak with Paula right away to give her a heads up that the Task Force would be formed shortly. Now that the CSC Task Force composition has been nailed down, Claire will prepare a Resolution asap for consideration by the Village Board.

4. Composting Collection Update - Claire

SHEAC has been invited to participate in a BOT Work Session discussion on Tuesday 1/8 about a proposed joint contract with Tarrytown to split the cost and share in their already established food scrap collection program. Tarrytown currently has 4 composting bins located between their Senior Center and new Rec Center. They are

filling those bins every week, and their contract allows for up to 8 bins. Kits are available at both the TT Rec Center and at the Warner Library, but currently have to show residency in Tarrytown. If SH went in on it, SH residents would then be allowed to buy the kits at the library. Glenn stated that there are important takeaways if we share in the program (1) reducing methane, (2) reducing waste carting and tipping fees, (3) takes more energy to burn food as opposed to recycling. This would enable SHEAC to "put their toe in the water" in terms of composting.

5. Village Comprehensive Plan

Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing at the end of February. Final edits to documents will be made by the beginning of March, and the final document should be completed and adopted in April. Needs to be an implementation group to move the plan forward. Claire noted that the first thing that should be done is putting together a committee to revise the zoning.

6. Dec 12th Climate Change Forum recap;- Dave

Dave and Claire both attended. The forum was very well attended, approximately 300. Folks from Cornell and NYS addressed how climate change will affect the Northeast, and what the effect will be on agriculture and those living in vulnerable areas. In Northeast: winters will be wetter and summers will be dryer, with more frequent and severe storms. We have an opportunity for adaptation and mitigation. New County Executive gave an excellent address stating that what we do locally is important, and we are in a position to make a change.

7. Set SHEAC priorities for 2019

SHEAC agreed on 4 priority issues for 2019

Promoting joint participation in the TT Foodscrap Collection Program

Establishing a Climate Smart Task Force and Advancing the Village status as a Climate Smart Community

Implementation of the Walkability Report recommendations

Continuation of watershed protection goals:

Lawncare

Storm drain medallions

Building on the Fremont Pond Grant to include the entire watershed community

New Business

Beekman Avenue Tree Replacement Proposal- Claire & Francois

The Village received a grant to redo the sidewalk along the downtown portion of Beekman Avenue and is in the process of hiring an engineer to design the new sidewalk. Francois and Claire were invited to a BOT Work Session on December 4th for the purpose of discussing possible removal/replacement during sidewalk reconstruction of all the street trees within the new sidewalk project area. At this meeting, the DPW superintendent introduced DPW consultant John Millar who recommended replacing all of the existing trees with smaller trees, possibly in bins. Mr. Millar stated that the trees were 40 years old and had "outlived their tree beds." Francois and Claire both strongly objected to the removal of all the existing trees explaining that they were a Village asset that could not be easily replaced, and any new trees would take many, many years to develop a canopy such as exists now. They recommended that the Board consult with DEC tree specialist George Profous to see how the trees could be saved.

Glenn advised that the tree roots are lifting up/damaging the sidewalks and the curbs and causing tripping hazards; some tree roots are growing into/under buildings; some do not look so great. Claire added that one of the Trustees suggested that perhaps only some of the trees would need to be removed, but not necessarily all. She said that the Mayor had promised further evaluation of all possibilities before making a decision. Several EAC members as well as guests expressed dismay at the tree removal proposal and are interested in continuing this

conversation. One guest suggested that the BOT should hold a public hearing before removing any trees. It is clear that there is community interest in keeping the trees.

Social Media Intern - Melanie asked that we postpone this discussion until the February

County Textile Recycling initiative - Nana
Can bring to county dump in Valhalla. White Plains, Mamaroneck and Yorktown have separate programs with bins and pickup.

Bedford 2020 High School Initiative - Dave
Competition for high schoolers to pitch greening initiatives. Winning group would get money to implement their proposal. About 10 schools participated; SH did not. We should encourage the SH/TT district to participate next year.

Share car proposal - business presentation in December BOT meeting

Composting on SH/TT School Campus?

Need to make good connection with active teachers at SHHS

Next Meeting will be on Monday February 4th