

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2019

Attendees: Claire Davis - presiding, Dave Avrin, Daniel Convissor, Melanie DuPuis, Francois Rjeili
Guests: Maureen Fleming, Jessica Fox, Allie Granger, Diana Loja, Sarah Smiley, Karen Vastola

January 7th minutes were approved electronically.

1. Watershed Protection/Fremont Pond

Jessica discussed approved grant for water quality improvement in Fremont. Planning for constructed wetlands and other management actions in the Peabody Preserve is underway and construction may not be completed for at least 18 months. Grant includes watershed protection public education that will include participation by the Board of Education.

Jessica also discussed Healthy Yards Workshop planning. The workshop will take place on Saturday March 16th at the SH Senior Center. More details to follow once speaker confirmed.

Dave reiterated that SHEAC continues to support an educational program involving labeling village storm drains. While we continue to discuss a strategy, no immediate action is planned until a funding source is identified.

The Village is exploring the possibility of obtaining a state grant to remove invasive plants from the Pocantico R shoreline in Devries Park. Fiona Matthews has connected with researchers at Pace U to obtain background information to support the actions.

2. Walkability Report Implementation Update

Claire is working on scheduling time at a BOT work session for Dan and her to present demo project findings and further recommendations by the end of March. It would be very timely to connect recommendations to the Beekman Ave sidewalk improvement project that is now in its design stage.

3. Climate Smart Community

Claire announced that the BOT has passed a resolution establishing a village CSC task force. The task force has a coordinator (Allie Granger) as well as representatives from SHEAC, the village head of DPW, and other village residents. Allie agreed to set up a Google Drive folder and to arrange a first task force meeting.

4. Food Scrap Collection Program Update

Claire announced that the SH BOT had approved an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) with Tarrytown under which the Village would split the cost of Tarrytown's already operational food scrap collection program. Under the IMA, SH residents will be eligible to purchase kits from the Warner Library that include home storage bins and a starter roll of compostable storage bags. to support participation by village residents. Approval of the IMA by the Tarrytown BOT is still pending, but is anticipated to be passed at their next regular meeting. Claire passed around the food scrap program rules provided by TT with a list of what items are allowed. It is required that food scraps be contained in compostable bags.

Once the IMA is signed by both Villages, it's going to be important to publicize the program and availability of the kits, as well as communicate these rules to people who participate.

Fiona is preparing a grant application that, if approved, will cover the cost of designing posters, flyers, and placing ads for education and outreach for this

program.

Dave: we need information out way before a grant. The Tarrytown flyer is excellent, can we use that?

Claire: We might be able to piggy-back off it. But I will also make sure that the Village promotes the program through its website and email blast system.

Sarah: Should discuss the next step.

Maureen: Need a backup plan to take it even further.

5. Beekman Avenue Tree Replacement Proposal Update

Karen reported that she went to last Board meeting and spoke about the need to save the existing trees.

Claire spoke to Anthony about when this would be on a BOT agenda again. Anthony will suggest in his next Admin. Report that the DPW Superintendent conduct a tree inventory detailing the condition of each tree.

Thinking seems to be changing and there is talk about widening the tree wells.

Francois raised that the quality of the pruning could be better, because they are not pruned by professional arborists. He explained that the trees are a decades long issue and that every few years there is a move by the Village to cut down the trees.

Claire reported that she was told there will be a future BOT work session discussion once the DPW inventory is completed. SHEAC will not be asked to participate, but we will be told in advance once the discussion is scheduled so we can attend.

Like with the food scraps, attendance at meetings, even if the public is not giving input, is important and noted by the Board.

Dave: what is the time line?

Claire: they have already hired an engineer and they need to give them direction.

Not only is it important that the tree issue be resolved, but also the recommendations in the Walkability Report must also be taken into account now, so that the engineer can design curb bump-outs as recommended in the report.

New Business

Communications Intern -

Melanie asks that we table this issue because we do not have enough work to fill a 90 hour semester internship. It was agreed to table.

Rivertowns Inter-Village Eco Meeting invite -

Rivertown EACs, CACs, sustainability task forces, Climate Crisis County Task Force members and others met together in Irvington to work together on county-wide issues. They created a gmail group and formed sub task forces on issues like Waste, Watersheds, etc. None of the appointed members of SHEAC were able to attend, but Sarah Smiley will send out her notes and make sure we are notified of future meetings.

Earth Day (Saturday April 27th) proposal from TEAC

TEAC has asked if SHEAC would like to collaborate with them on their Earth Day events, but have not provided any details as yet.

Saturday May 4th is the Annual Riverkeeper Sweep. SHEAC participates in the Sweep each year with active support from the Village. Dave points out that the TEAC events of April 27th fall only a week before the Sweep, and since we are committed to the May 4th event, we will not have the time or energy to prepare for both.

Healthy Yards Workshop Saturday March 16th - flyer will be available soon

Check for Public Hearings in March on the Comprehensive Plan.

US Army Corps of Engineers will post their Interim Report on or shortly after February 19th. It's called the Harbor & Tributaries Study (HATS). - be prepared to discuss plan of action at next meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday March 4th