

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

Attendees: Dave Avrin - presiding, Dan Convisser, Claire Davis, Beverly Jansen, Melanie Dupuis, Nana Welch

Guests:

Maureen Fleming

Gwen Jones - Westchester County Climate Crisis Task Force (co-lead Zero Waste and member Education, Land Use sectors)

Susana Jones - Phillips Manor Garden Club Exec Committee

Glen Rosenbloom - Trustee

Jared Rodriguez

Abbey Williams - Mothers Out Front

1. Watershed Protection:

Dave: healthy yards workshop March 16. PMIA Garden Club sent to their membership. Social media as well, well advertised, outside of village as well.

2. Food Scrap Collection Program Update

Tarrytown approved signing the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA - drafted by SH), but made a few minor changes to the agreement. Agreement still not signed, waiting for Tarrytown to send revised agreement back to SH. Claire to follow up with Anthony Giaccio and Richard Slingerland regarding signing the agreement and will let us know when signed. Meanwhile, Tarrytown notified the library that SH residents can purchase kits there, and SH residents can only buy kits at the library (not the TT rec center). The kits have the rules right on the tub. SH participation in the program is approved by both villages, but will not be advertised on Village website until IMA is signed. Additional compostable bags may be purchased elsewhere, but extra rolls are available at the library for only \$2. When we post it we should put on it where you can buy them. Library is the better price. Sleepy Hollow agreement with Tarrytown will run for 1 year from date of IMA.

3. Comprehensive Plan Update

Glen said there will be public hearings, but there have been none scheduled at this time. There will be more than one, probably in April, but maybe at the end of March. The consultants were asked to incorporate comments received thus far and provide a new draft for the Board. The new draft should be received sometime within the next two weeks.

4. Walkability report implementation

Dan and Claire will make a presentation at the Board of Trustees work session tomorrow night. They will report on the Pocantico & Beekman demo project survey results project and make recommendations as to next steps. They are also proposing to do a second demo project at Lawrence and Beekman and to incorporate the Walkability Report curb extension recommendations into the new sidewalk design so they can be constructed as part of the current projects. Following Dan and Claire's presentation, there's a public meeting scheduled at on the entire Beekman Avenue Sidewalk Project.

5. Sidewalk Project Public Meeting (tomorrow night, 8 pm)

Will cover anything to do with the sidewalk reconstruction. Will cover the issue of the trees, but there's also movement in the direction to preserve the trees. Claire plans to put on the record again that the design consultants should incorporate the Walkability Report proposals into the plan. Claire will pass out the maps of the proposed intersection improvements at the worksession.

Glen: The Edge on Hudson team is working on the sidewalks between their project the Beekman Avenue Bridge. The two groups dealing with the sidewalks should speak to

each other. Claire: Claire: There's nothing we covered that went past Cortland. However, the consensus was that it would be beneficial for the two groups to get together in any case.

#### New Business:

##### 1. SHEAC Website improvements

Claire got together with Maureen Fleming to get some ideas on how to make our website more readable and interesting. Some of the suggestions were not possible on the free website tool, but Maureen noted that there are other tools we could look into that may provide more user friendly design flexibility. However, Claire did make some changes already based on Maureen's advice, including posting SHEAC 2019 priorities under the About Us section, and also adding tabs on Complete Streets, Community Choice Aggregation, etc...The goal is to make projects we have worked on as well as on-going campaigns easier to find on the website, and it's still a work-in-progress. Claire also sent the SHEAC meeting date notice to Paula McCarthy who announced it in an email blast. There are definitely improvements there. Also, on the Village SHEAC website, Claire was able to arrange for the inaccurate information about being a climate smart community to be removed and have updated the info posted on that site.

##### 2. US Army Corps of Engineers Interim Report on Harbor and Tributaries Study.

We have not seen a new response by Riverkeeper yet. The entire document is hundreds of pages. We have to wait until better minds than us on this issue read through the long report before we comment. However, the report still includes the same 6 alternatives with 8 new public information meetings scheduled, the first of which is at the County Center in White Plains on March 12th from 5 to 7 pm.

Claire passed out a brief summary of what appears to have changed in the new report based on a cursory review of the Army Corps website. One change is that the Corps of Engineers are now discussing sea level rise (as opposed to just storm surges). Also, the Interim Report says that they may discard some of the alternatives if they prove to be unfeasible.

Dave: Two things that are clear: the report is intelligent, but they do not mention climate change although they do now mention sea level rise. And they now mention retreat once, while the previous report mentioned neither retreat nor sea level rise. There's a group that has formed against storm surge barriers, and there's a conference call tomorrow afternoon at 5 pm., about the interim report and what the next step should be for the coalition.

Jared: There's a documentary on Netflix on Sinking Cities, including the Thames Barrier. The ecology of the rivers is discussed and the role of the barriers that currently exist, including the negative consequences suffered by the other cities with this type of barrier.

##### 3. Saturday, May 4th, Riverkeeper Sweep and Village Beautification Day

SHEAC usually leads a clean-up at Devries and Douglas, while the Village organizes something at Sykes, on Cortland and around Morse School and Beekman. We should know by next meeting the extent of the park participation and sign ups. Last year we planted perennials at Devries along with the cleanup. Students can get community credit.

##### 4. Westchester County (WC) Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) information provided by guest Gwen Jones

County Executive George Latimer convened a Climate Crisis Task Force in December '18. With the exception of Peter McCartt, WC Dir of Sustainability, this is an all-volunteer force. Divided into 11 sectors related to topics including energy, air, water, zero waste and education, the first CCTF assignment was to help identify actions that could be taken immediately (6-12 months) with little to no funding or new policy or legislative requirements, e.g. low-hanging fruit. The expectation is that these will largely be scaling and promotion of existing state, county and local programs, with new and more ambitious goals to come. Steered by

NYPA, with which WC has a contract, additional consulting resources will soon be retained to complete a GHG inventory and help with the revision of the county's 2008 Climate Action Plan. The CAP is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019 and will focus primarily on GHG reduction, with additional actions related to resiliency and adaptation. A review of publically available information and interviews with municipalities will provide current context regarding what is being done and/or planned across the county. A process and schedule for this outreach is forthcoming.

There are 11 sectors. First step is to put together the 10 low-hanging fruit that the county can do. Almost done. Will update the 2008 Climate Action Plan beginning with a GHG Inventory. There will be a CFP for a consultant to do that analysis. Need a database environment that will be a base of all that the municipalities are doing, as a repository for the climate action plan. The idea is to organize the mass of people and organization that will create a climate action plan that can be implemented. Need a repository of what municipals are doing and what they think is important. GHG data at a municipal level is disorganized and patchy. Steered by the NY Power Authority. The County and State are expected to provide funds. The idea is that the Climate Action Plan would be finished by the end of the year, it is not clear if that will be done. But a lot of the analysis can be done by rule of thumb.

Glen: I understand the need to get the baseline, but are there things we can do now? Gwen: that was the logic of the top 10 list. Sustainable Westchester already has a zero waste committee. All volunteers: the only paid member is Peter McCartt. Glen: just the concept of shared services within the County, there isn't an incentive to share things like vehicles.

Jared: Rockland County has little power, but the County Executive has the ability to limit development by controlling water-sewer hookups, and can control approval of new hookups.

Next Meeting: Monday April 8