

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, April 8, 2019

Attendees: Claire Davis - presiding, Dave Avrin, Dan Convisser, Melanie Dupuis, Beverly Jansen, Francois Rjeili, Nana Welch
Guests: Suzana Jones, Bill Roundtree, Arline Segal, Sarah Smiley, Karen Vastola

Meeting opened at 7:34 pm

Minutes for February 4th and March 4th were approved electronically

1. Watershed Protection (grant status, March 16th Healthy Yards Workshop recap) - Dave
 - a. Healthy yards workshop went well. 60+ people attended. Good presentation, very well received. Dave stated that many people will be implementing different/non-toxic lawn management practices in the manors going forward.
 - b. Actual implementation of the Fremont Pond grant project is a year and a half out. There are still some specifics that need to be submitted, but the grant has been awarded.
 - c. Mike Rubbo will be giving a presentation on biodiversity in the Pocantico River Watershed Alliance, April 16th 6:30pm at Teatown.
2. Food Scrap Collection Program Update - Grant Status & Program implementation - Claire
 - a. The Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) between Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow was signed, and a sales kick-off took place at the Healthy Yards Workshop. Kits have also been selling at the library. Sleepy Hollow participation has now been added to all the documentation: flyers and poster at the library and inserts included in the kits. The kit components were purchased by Tarrytown and are being sold at cost. Right now, they are \$20, but starting April 15th they will be selling for \$23, because the actual cost of the complete kit went up slightly when reordered. SH Residents can go to the library and the SH Village Hall to purchase kits. The Town of Greenburgh has proposed offering curbside pickup in 2020. The IMA includes a clause that addresses the eventuality that Tarrytown might sign up with the Greenburgh program. In that case, should TT decide to discontinue the drop-off program at Pierson Park, SH would need to go on its own.
3. Climate Smart Community Status Update
 - a. Did have a meeting after the last SHEAC Meeting and will have another meeting tonight
 - b. Allie will be available for another 6 weeks. There needs to be a leader for the CSC Committee.
4. Walkability Report Implementation Update - Claire
 - a. Proposal to have two new crosswalk pilot. Only installed one pilot crosswalk, from the liquor store and the Lifecenter. Constructed a temporary one with cones and spraypaint. Wayne Ballard marked out the new crosswalk.
 - b. Cones were pushed up against the curb. There is no bumpout at the moment.
 - c. We need volunteers to carry out the survey about how people feel about the pilot crosswalk.
5. Beekman Avenue Tree Replacement Proposal Update - Claire
 - a. Presentation by engineers contracted for the design on the Beekman sidewalk project. They are no longer talking about taking out all the trees. There has been a tree removed that was dead and the question is how to put in replacement trees.
 - b. SH is behind on its Tree City yearly application. We are working with the Village on getting the application documentation done.
 - c. No indication of when they will be discussing this at the Board.

6. Saturday May 4th Riverkeeper Sweep & Village Beautification Day

- a. Dan will take care of signups for Douglas Park
- b. Cleanup will take place from 10-12, in DeVries Park. It will also involve planting flowers and coordinating with the Garden Club. Maybe someone from the Garden Club would adopt these flowerbeds. Have talked to Anthony about logistical support and resources. Will provide some native/pollinator perennials. Haven't done the planning for their Beautification Day. Happy to have some help.

7. Interim Report on Harbor & Tribs Study (Storm-surge Barrier Proposal) - report on Public Meeting - Claire

- a. Army Corps of Engineers were given an extension of three years to deal with the problems with the original study (such as they did not deal with sea-level rise along with storm surge). The study covers 900 miles of shoreline. In the last presentation at White Plains, the Corps stated that they were open to comments. Full report Jan 2020. They have 8 public meetings scheduled, only 1 of which is in Westchester, at White Plains. There is no meeting in the Rivertowns. Our comments will be to ask for a Rivertown meeting.

New Business

1. Proposal by Mothers Out Front on geo-thermal heat pump program - seeking SHEA endorsement

- a. Sara Smiley part of the group that seeks to move to communities off of fossil fuels. Asks that the Village support a community assessment of electrification and district heating. Asking for SHEAC to get NYSERDA on the Village meeting agenda so they could present all the benefits they offer for such a program. One of the potential projects is the electrification through geothermal heatpumps that provides both heating and cooling. State goals phase out natural gas due to its global warming impact. Once that moves forward, pipelines will become "stranded assets" that ratepayers will continue to pay for. Electrification is good for homeowners, businesses, etc. The group would like a presentation to the Village Board.
- b. Each homeowner would have to apply to NYSERDA individually for the rebates. There are different ways to provide incentives.
- c. Hudson Harbor says they are using geothermal, but they are not.
- d. Question: what role does the municipality have - it seems to primarily involve the individual homeowner. Answer: the presentation would make Village aware of the alternatives.
- e. Discussion of expense: after XX years, homeowner investment will be repaid.
- f. NYSERDA would fund an assessment to see where the best opportunities would be to convert to electric heating and cooling systems, or a district system. The money is first come first serve.
- g. Question: SHEAC is being asked to get NYSERDA in front of the board to make a presentation.
- h. Proposal: We are willing to support the presentation if Mothers will give us a clear description of what they are asking for in terms of what the NYSERDA assessment would do.

2. Community Solar

- a. There is a program that offers incentives for communities to create larger-scale community projects that residents can purchase together. Claire has been trying to look into this.

May meeting: Monday May 6th at 7:30pm