

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, May 6, 2019

Attendees: Dave Avrin - presiding, Claire Davis, Dan Convissor, Melanie Dupuis, Glenn Rosenbloom (Trustee)

Guests: Gwen Jones, Jared Rodriguez, Sarah Smiley, Lina Tapia, Karen Vastola

Meeting opened at 7:39

Minutes for meeting of April 8th were approved electronically.

1. Watershed Protection (grant status, lawncare initiative update)

Regarding grant for Peabody and Fremont Pond - Dave reports there are still a few things that the state is asking for. Glenn met with Fiona and others to finalize the to-do items. Will soon be issuing RFPs to contractors. Working with School District that owns the Peabody land. Talking about the possibility for internships for high school students to do water quality testing. One item on the list is to work with homeowners around the pond to create a planted buffer. Jessica Fox has identified something called "A Buffer in a Bag" - property owners that own more than 50 feet of shoreline can obtain buffer plants from DEC. Two owners around the Fremont Pond have already applied for this.

Jessica Fox has proposed that the Village change their policies about fertilization of Village properties. Glen: more people would like the healthy yards sign.

Discussion of how to obtain more of these signs and make them more available. If Village were to adopt a sustainable lawn care program then we could get CSC points.

2. Food Scrap Collection Program Update - Grant Status & Program implementation

Claire reports that SHEAC obtained 20 food scrap kits from the library. We sold 7 at the March 16th Lawn Care event. The remainder of the 20 are being stored and sold at the SH Village Clerk's office. The extent of Village publicity to Sleepy Hollow residents so far has been one email blast. However, the flyers and poster at the library have been updated to reflect Sleepy Hollow participation, and a large number have been sold at Warner Library. Meanwhile, SH submitted a grant application (via Fiona) that was for education and program promotion purposes, but the funds have not yet been awarded, so in the interim we are piggybacking off the promotional flyers that TEAC has developed.

Glenn: It is already on the website. However, we can also put it on the public access television - he will look into/arrange this. You do not need a kit to bring the compost to the compost bins, but you do need a compostable bags. Sarah is arranging to have flyers put in schools backpacks. Glenn: we should find out if there is an increase in tonnage since SH signed on. Claire: there is a record of the addresses of those people who have bought kits, and she can check the library record for a count of SH purchasers. The number of collection bins has already increased to six. The contract with the carting company allows for up to 8 bins. Collection could also increase to more than once a week if needed.

3. Climate Smart Community Status Update

Meeting this evening at 8:45

4. Walkability Report Implementation - Demo project update

Claire met on site with Wayne Ballard, Richie Gross, Police Chief Anthony Bueti, and Asst Fire Chief John Korzelius to set up a demo project at Lawrence and Beekman - a temporary crosswalk was painted and protective cones were placed along the outside of the crosswalk at each end to approximate a curb extension. One parking space was temporarily vacated on the south side of Beekman to make space for the crosswalk and cones were placed in the remainder of the parking space. It was supposed to be a two week project, however the cones were removed after 10 days. Subsequently, there was a post in 10591 by an observer of the incident that a HS student was nearly hit ("brushed by the vehicle") right at the intersection where

the project had been set up (there was no police report made as the student was not injured).

Claire: Striped areas are in some ways even more dangerous than a delineated parking space close to an intersection because they become haphazardly positioned, short term parking, often blocking a driver's sightline which they were created to preserve in the first place. This incident confirms that this is the right place for adding a curb extension/bumpout to the sidewalk plan.

Glenn: the Police Department has a Public Safety Committee and this is a public safety issue. I would involve the Police Chief and also refer it to the Police Advisory Committee. Claire: Chief Bueti has been involved and he was out there with us, but I will speak with him again for he feedback and arrange to speak with the Police Advisory Committee as well.

Glen.: the Andrews St. accident is under investigation and has not ended. We should prevent every accident we can. Clinton Street at the Bridge is also a problem. Jared: as a resident on Kendall Avenue, I have almost been hit pushing a baby carriage 5 times since I moved here 18 months ago. Dan: Vision Zero is a way to engineer to slow down traffic and make it more visible. Karen: we should also teach children in the school on how to walk safely.

5. Sunday May 5th Riverkeeper Sweep Recap

Dave reported that a full ten people participated in the Devries Park clean-up. The park was pretty clean on arrival and was even cleaner than they left. Many of the perennials survived from last year's planting and more were planted. Dan arranged with Carol Vinzant, a Webber Park resident, for her to lead the Douglas Park clean up which also involved removal of invasive plants.

6. Army Corps Harbor & Tribs Study update - Claire

Claire reported that she did not submit any comments in this round - waiting for full report to be issued in 2020 and Riverkeeper comments.

New Business

1. Saturday October 5th Eco Fair

Rachel Tiger from TEAC asked if we would be willing to co-sponsor with them. The Sleepy Hollow Street Fair won't conflict this year bc it is scheduled for the 12th. There was consensus to participate in both - Claire will notify Rachel that we will co-sponsor.

Lina Tapia pointed out the importance of reaching out to the Latino community with information about the Eco-Fair and the Food Scrap collection program. She attends the TaSH Farmers Market weekly and has observed few shoppers from her community. Lina indicated that she is willing to assist with translating announcements and info flyers into Spanish!

2. Proposal by Mothers Out Front on geo-thermal heat pump program - seeking SHEAC endorsement (tabled from April)

Mothers Out Front is a group focused on limiting climate change to protect our children. They have decided to advocate for local projects that reduce or eliminate fossil fuel use. Jared Rodriguez (of Emergent Urban Concepts and Sleepy Hollow resident) and Sarah Smiley (of Mother's Out Front and Sleepy Hollow resident) presented on NYSERDA's program to encourage community heating electrification via heat pump installation. NYSERDA is particularly interested in Westchester because of the Con Edison natural gas moratorium. There is also the potential for a shared loop system where several houses or other buildings share geothermal facilities reducing the first cost to building owners or residents. "This is the most technology neutral/agnostic way to move off of natural gas at a significant scale." RESOLUTION (PASSED UNANIMOUSLY): We support the proposal to seek NYSERDA funding for a neighborhood heating electrification study with a goal of exploring geothermal heat pump technology and shared community geothermal loops. We support the concept."

3. Thursday June 6th - 2nd County Climate Change Program
Dave Avrin will be attending.

4. Schedule SHEAC meeting at Kendal

Agreed that we will meet at Kendal sometime in the coming year. Dave will check with Kendal folks to see about possible dates.

5. Inter-Village Eco-Group Meeting

Claire is interested and plans to attend the group's next meeting on Sunday June 2nd in Dobbs Ferry. She will report back and we can make a decision about future participation.

Next meeting will be on Monday June 3rd