

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, June 3, 2019

Attendees: Claire Davis – presiding, Dave Avrin, Dan Convisser, Beverly Jansen, Nana Welch, Francois Rjeili
Guests: Gwen Jones, Chuck Zekus, Sarah Smiley, Jessica Fox, Karen Vastola, Rebecca Policello – Rockefeller Preserve

Meeting opened at 7:10

Minutes for meeting of May 6th were approved electronically.

Claire announced that Melanie Depuis would be leaving SHEAC effective immediately. She is relocating to a town in Dutchess County and has regretfully resigned from this committee. We thank her for her contributions and wish her good luck in her new location. Melanie will remain at her position at Pace and continue to keep us informed of relevant information that passes through her department.

Committee members were asked to provide suggestions for replacement for Melanie.

Nana volunteered to assume the position of SHEAC Secretary as of the July meeting. She was approved unanimously.

1. Watershed Protection

Jessica Fox provided an update on the Fremont Pond water quality improvement grant. She is working with a small group from the village administration and the Board of Ed on finalization of the grant details. The Bd of Ed is compiling their plans to use the grant to provide environmental education to students on the importance of improving water quality. She is also working on gaining community support for healthy yards landscaping through the Pollinator Pathway's Project. Jess reported that a Pollinator Pathway garden has been established at Barnhardt Park by Erin Carney.

Dave discussed the SHEAC effort to convince the village to adopt a healthy landscaping resolution. Dave presented the value of such a resolution to the BOT at a work session last week. The BOT seemed interested in the idea and agreed to review a draft resolution. Dave sent the BOT a draft resolution that would establish a policy of non-toxic soil and plant treatment on all Village owned land for consideration shortly following the work session and is awaiting feedback.

The Village has received a grant for the removal of invasive exotic species along the Pocantico

River in Devries Park. More information to follow at the next meeting

The Village has received a grant for the removal of invasive exotic species along the Pocantico

River in Devries Park. More information to follow at the next meeting

Claire reported that the Village has applied for a grant for the removal of 3 specific invasive species along the Pocantico River in Devries Park. An announcement of grant approval is expected shortly (more information to follow at the next meeting).

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

Claire reported that 32 collection kits were purchased by SH residents as of April 30th. (correction: actually 42 kits – Claire can't add!).

Sarah Smiley via Mothers Out Front has been successful in facilitating school district distribution of flyers about the Food Scrap Collection program through the Superintendent's office. Physical flyers designed by MOF went home with students in the younger grades, and middle school and high school students received them

digitally.

Claire is working with Diana L. and Lina Tapia to translate informational materials about the program (flyers, kit inserts, posters) into Spanish and to distribute information to the Latino community residing primarily in the Inner Village. She further reported that she, Karen Vastola, and Lina Tapia participated with TEAC in a sale of collection kits at the TaSH on May 28th where 10 kits were sold – 2 to SH residents, 8 to Tarrytown residents.

3. Climate Smart Community Status Update

A CSC task force meeting will be held this evening immediately following the end of the SHEAC meeting. Allie has graduated from Pace and will no longer serve as coordinator. Thus far, Allie has documented 74 points toward the 120 needed for bronze status. Claire has agreed to continue as coordinator and is working with Anthony G. to enlist the aid of a grad student intern from Oneonta College to assist with the GHG Inventory part of the project. Nana also volunteered to take minutes for the Task Force starting with the next meeting.

4. Walkability Report Implementation – Demo project update

Claire reported that the demo project that was installed on April 8th at the west side of Lawrence and Beekman was removed after only 10 days at the request of Anthony Giaccio. During the 10-day trial period, the temporary crosswalk with cone protected curb extensions was observed being used numerous times, and management at the liquor store indicated support for the proposed crosswalk. A second crosswalk originally recommended in the Walkability Workshop Report at the east side of Lawrence was scrapped due to objections from the Police Department, the DPW, and the Fire Department at the time of installation. At the suggestion of Glenn Rosenbloom, Claire met with Anthony Bueti and the Police Department Public Safety Committee to review SHEAC recommendations at both the Lawrence and Pocantico intersections. She then provided the Board of Trustees with an update on the demo project explaining the reasons for the elimination of one of the originally proposed crosswalks, explaining further that Asst Fire Chief John Korzelius indicated Fire Dept opposition to any curb extensions on the North side of Beekman unless they were done with mountable curbs to preserve fire truck turning radii. The Mayor asked Claire to meet with Police, Fire, and DPW heads to resolve differences around the proposed curb extensions and to come back with a unified plan acceptable to all before consideration could be given to altering the current Beekman Avenue sidewalk project design.

5. Schedule SHEAC Meeting at Kendal

Dave reported that he contacted Anne White about scheduling a regular SHEAC meeting at Kendal, and Monday evenings are not workable for them. He then suggested to Anne that a smaller group of SHEAC members could be available for a meeting with residents and Kendal administrators to discuss environmental issues of interest. Dave is awaiting a response from Anne.

6. Inter-Village Eco Group

Claire was unable to attend the June 2nd meeting in Dobbs Ferry, but put Jessica Fox in touch with the organizing committee as she has the most interest and expertise around the items currently being focused on: Healthy Yards and Pollinator Pathways. Jess attended both a smaller planning meeting on May 31st, and the June 2nd larger meeting. She reports that the group consists of EACs and CACs from all the Rivertowns from Hastings to Sleepy Hollow and will continue to focus on the above two programs. The next meeting of this group will take place in Hastings-on-Hudson in September (date and exact location to be announced).

New Business

1. Comprehensive Plan Final Draft Public Hearing

Claire reported that the first Public Hearing (of three anticipated) was very well attended. Claire was among many who offered comments on the plan, which comments she made clear were her own as a resident and professional city planner and did not represent SHEAC. She reported that all of the written comments she had previously submitted on the earlier draft (including a few that did pertain to SHEAC) had been addressed in this Final Draft.

2. Report on Improvements to Outreach

Claire provided a brief update on efforts to improve the SHEAC Website, Village Bulletin Board postings, and Email outreach. She reported that we now have 123 subscribers and the opening rate for our monthly Mailchimp account email notices ranges from 47% to 60%! Claire has also been moderately successful in having our meeting notices and agendas posted on the Village Website. Dave stated that he was pleased with the improvements to our outreach and thanked Claire for her efforts.

The next meeting will be on Monday July 1st .

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.