

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes, October 7, 2019

2nd floor of Sleepy Hollow Village Hall

Attendees: Beverly Jansen, Claire Davis, Dave Avrin, Nana Welch, Dan Convissor, Jessica Fox  
Guests: Charles Zekus, Lina Tapia

Minutes of September 9th approved electronically

7:15 PM

1. Watershed Protection Updates -

a. Village pesticide policy & Healthy Yards Campaign Update

Village resolution regarding pesticides passed.

Fremont Pond - Jessica - a lot of interest in the Pollinator Pathways - Open Space committee, Anthony Giaccio met with Chet Kerr regarding pollinator pathways in the Rivertowns. Open Space committee is very interested in the project. A pollinator garden was installed in Barnhart Park. Another will be installed at the end of Millard/Rt. 9 in Philipse Manor. Jessica helped to plan the garden and picked the plants (all perennials). DPW will take care of the planting this week.

A grant came up for tree inventories - the application deadline is early December. Jessica is going to talk to the Sleepy Hollow Garden club to talk about Fremont Pond and best practices for sustainable gardening.

Working with Fiona Matthews to get the Fremont Pond RFP out for the bioswales and riparian buffer in Peabody.

West side of Fremont Pond has erosion and invasives - (on Riverside) talked with Erin Carney to get the master gardeners from Cornell come up with a planting plan (they offer this to municipalities and non-profits).

Leave the leaves "Leave the Leaves" campaign for the autumn

Pollinator Ambassador brochure for the street fair

b. Update on invasive species & GM Settlement grant awards

Had a Conference call with Fiona Matthews, Dave Avrin, Jessica Fox and Trillium re: Devries herbicides - management plan calls for using glyphosate and triclopyr. Glyphosate on phragmites, porcelain berry, and european alder using best practices (waiting until low tide, not spraying toward the water, etc). Same practice used on other NYS and Audubon Audubon properties. Glyphosate adheres to soil particles and breaks down within a year. Does not migrate into waterways. They will take proper precautions to make sure that people are notified and do not enter the treated areas for 24hrs. Historic Hudson has already started and done two treatments on phragmites. Spray, mow down plant material and repeat as necessary. For vines, they will cut and paint the stems. Removal and monitoring is a 3 year project. No start date yet, more details need to be hashed out.

2. Food Scrap Collection Program Update - Grant Status, Program implementation - Claire:

75 kits have been sold (for just Sleepy Hollow); 3 were sold at the cultural festival. Village sold 2 through the clerk's office since August.

Grant status - awarded the grant - \$11,286, requires 50% match; total grant would be \$17,800. Fiona Matthews inquired whether village still interested - requires getting a graphic designer on board to advertise program (reusable bags, lawn signs, newspaper ads, etc). May include starter kits (full price or discount). Timeline of using grant unclear at this time, Claire to follow up with Fiona Matthews. Claire and Lina put up signs on some storefronts in the Village.

3. Climate Smart Community Status Update - Claire:

Anthony will find a new village representative for the next CSC meeting. Claire is

meeting with Anthony this week to discuss the CSC and its status. Tentative CSC meeting would be Monday November 18th (separate from SHEAC).

4. Walkability Report Implementation status - Claire:

Met with Trustee Levy Leavy - looked at the Lawrence/Beekman intersection. Trustee Levy Leavy would like to put supports putting a an new/additional crosswalk there. He wants Claire to come to the Oct. 15th board meeting to present.

5. Comprehensive Plan Status & Update on SHEAC final comments - Claire:

SHEAC comments objecting to map of proposed Cortlandt/Beekman intersection plan were submitted by Claire on time and receipt was acknowledged. Notification that red-line version of comprehensive plan is out. Written Public Comment hearing extended to end of October 22nd.

6. Tabling plan for Oct 12th SH Street Fair

Street Fair is from 10-5; Jessica will bring the table, tent, and recycling game; All members will participate throughout the day. Eco Fair was a success

7. Sept. 10th Croton Climate Plan workshop report - Dave

Claire, Francois, and Dave attended presentation. Bedford 2020 presented on the work they have been doing for the last 9 years. Substantial budget and two full time employees to administer the program - pollinator workshops, healthy yards, food scraps, etc. There are good programs out there that the Village should adopt.

New Business

1. Sept. 22nd Inter-Village Meeting Report - Jessica

Main focus was Pollinator Pathways, CSC, food scraps, recycling, outreach. Chuck Kerr and ... from Westchester Land Trust. Hastings hired a paid intern to complete the project and should have Bronze status next year. Intern may be available.

2. Sept 26th Resiliency Workshop Report - Claire & Dave

Dave and Claire attended resiliency workshop at Tarrytown Senior Center hosted by Nature Conservancy and Hudson River Watershed Alliance. Help communities come up with a plan to identify areas where resiliency related to climate change needs to be addressed in the short term, i.e. schools, first responders, trains, etc - what to do in the short term if something climate related happens. Village assets were all discussed - parks, schools, etc. Representatives from villages of Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow were invited with Village managers, safety personnel, concerned citizens in attendance. eEverything can be affected by sea level rise. Trains and utilities came to the top of the list for emergent situations. Metro North Hudson Line tracks are being elevated as they are being repaired to prevent against sea level rise and storm surges.

3. Outreach update - Claire

Added 14 people to the email list from latest events

Posted pictures from Cultural Festival on SHEAC Facebook page, 10591, and Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown places page

Meeting announcements are going out well

Dan - Rt. 9 study: All other villages have passed a resolution to endorse moving forward with the next phase of the study (Tarrytown, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings).

Rt. 119 Study - meeting to wrap up study, there will be a way to make a 2-way protected bike lane on that road.

Set date for November meeting - November 4th; Claire and Nana will likely be out.

Meeting adjourned 8:41pm