

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes of the November 4, 2019 meeting

Attending: Daniel Convisser, David Avrin, Francois Rjeili, Jessica Fox, Beverly Jansen
Guests: Deb Wood, Sarah Smiley

Minutes of 10/7 meeting approved electronically

Items 2 - 5 via written submission by Claire Davis who could not attend this evening.

1. Watershed Protection Updates

- a. Village pesticide policy & Healthy Yards Campaign Update – Dave & Jessica: Board of Trustees passed a resolution. Haven't received copy of it yet. Dave will get more lawn signs.
- b. Update on Invasive Species Removal Grant – Jessica: Nothing to report
- c. Pollinator Pathways update - Jessica: New garden installed in traffic island at intersection of Broadway & Millard Ave. DPW staff was awesome. Conversations went well with Sleepy Hollow Manor Garden Club re Freemont Pond. Request for Proposal is out there regarding bioswales, etc, for Peabody Field/Preserve. A joint meeting of Philipse Manor and Sleepy Hollow Manor is coming up. I'm still working to produce a pollinator pathway map. Meeting with TEAC about coordination.

2. Food Scrap Collection Program Update

- a. We sold 3 food scrap kits at the Cultural Festival, another 2 at the Oct 12th Street Fair, and Village Clerk's office had sold another two before I left town. Including library sales thru end of Sept, about 70 kits had been sold to SH residents. I will get an updated account when I get back.
- b. I have a Spanish translation for the Warner Library flyer, but no access to an editable file. Dean Gallea (TEAC Co-Chair and Library Board member) will assist with cut and paste to create a Spanish flyer for library distribution.
- c. A poster advertising sale of food scrap collection kits thru the Village Clerk's office had been previously posted in the glass case in the lobby of Village Hall. Some time in September, I noticed it had been removed. Before leaving town, I twice sent an email request to Anthony and Paula to restore the poster to the lobby. Paula replied that she thought it was posted. I answered that it was not there any longer. Received no communication after that.
Can someone please check on Monday evening to see if it's there or not and let me know??

3. Climate Smart Community Status Update

- a. Anthony Giaccio said he will replace Wayne Ballard as the Village rep on the CSC Task Force. I met with Anthony for over an hour on October 8th to review at least 5 Action Items for which we might achieve additional points once documentation is provided. At the time of this meeting, we had documented 97 points (120 points are required to submit for review). Anthony took notes and promised to work on getting the documentation to me. Thus far he has facilitated documentation for 1 additional task at an additional 4 points for a total of 101. I plan to schedule another meeting with Anthony as soon as I return.
- b. I plan to schedule a Task Force meeting on Monday November 18th at 7:15pm at Village Hall. I alerted Anthony to the date and time of the meeting before I left town, and he said he was available that evening. I will send out a formal notice after I get back.

4. Walkability Report Implementation status

Some good news on this front! I previously reported that Trustee John Leavy is in firm support of the installation of a new crosswalk at Lawrence and Beekman. In furtherance of this goal, John requested that I make a presentation to the BOT on

October 16th, and he obtained Ken's Ok to add me to the agenda. With both John's and Dan's assistance, I prepared a brief Powerpoint presentation consisting of photos and maps showing where the crosswalk would be located; a single parking space would need to be eliminated. Nana also appeared with me in support of the project. My presentation was well-received, John enthusiastically promoted the project, and after a brief discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to move forward with the new crosswalk installation.

5. Comprehensive Plan Status

The deadline for submitting written public comment on the red-line version of the Draft CP was October 22nd. I submitted brief personal comments on the red-line sections on October 20th. Anyone wishing a copy of my comments, please email me. As far as I know, there has been no further extension, but perhaps Dan, who has been following this issue closely, can provide an update, and if Glenn is in attendance, surely he can update us as to when the Plan might be voted on.

6. Recap of Oct 12 th SH Street Fair Event - Dave: Good turnout. Recycling game was enjoyed. Sold some compost kits.

New Business

1. Electric Mower Demo Event at TaSH - Jessica: Helping plan an event of battery powered lawn maintenance tools this Saturday. Westchester Tool is coming to show the kinds of equipment is available. Would SHEAC like to be a sponsor with TEAC? Consensus of attendees was "yes."

2. Proposed SHEAC resolution requesting that Village consult with SHEAC on sidewalk/street construction projects - Dan: The sidewalks on the newly completed Beekman Ave Bridge are narrower compared to the old bridge: north side that was ~8' is now 5', south side that was ~12' is now 6'. The new sidewalks constructed from the Bridge to River St added a curb extension and crosswalk on the west side of Hudson St, but has no crosswalk on the east side of Hudson St. These projects indicate there are problems with the Village's process of designing and/or reviewing sidewalk/street construction projects. Would the Committee entertain a resolution to request the Village seek input from the EAC when sidewalk and street designs are being made? Consensus was yes, as long as the wording requested our role be an advisory one. Dan will produce draft text for such a resolution and circulate it to the group for consideration at a future meeting.

3. Tree Ordinance - Dave: There are lots of issues with the Village's existing tree ordinance. While Dave was at a Trustee meeting, people from the Planning Board raised concerns with how the ordinance is implemented. They asked for a review of the process. Dave feels our tree ordinance is exemplary in how comprehensive it is, many people look to it as an example. But it is hard to consistently adhere to, so compliance falters. For example, the Tree Committee is supposed to have 2 members from the EAC on it. In practice, there is only one. It may be worth examining how to make it less complex so it can be consistently applied and enforced. Would like to see this as a priority for the EAC in 2020.