

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, December 7, 2020

via Zoom

Attendees: Francois, Rjeili, Dan Convisser, Dave Avrin, Jessica Fox, Nana Welch
Guest: Sarah Smiley

commenced at 7:05 pm

1. Approval of November Minutes - approved

2. (Jessica) Joint work with Planning Board, Public Space Committee & Tree Commission to update village tree ordinance and to implement a tree canopy improvement program.

Draft of Tree Management Mission Statement (attached)

Next Steps -

Discuss with Joint Committee

Present to Board of Trustees

Get input to see if more detailed plan is helpful

Jessica and Dave worked on the proposal and will send to BOT to get their thoughts before they make a more detailed plan. They will reach out to community - a survey will be sent out - regarding community thoughts on various issues related to trees. Survey will go out through Sleepy Hollow Village and SHEAC email blasts.

3. (Dan) Route 9 Active Transportation Plan and Lower Beekman Ave traffic calming
BOT adopted a resolution regarding route 9 active transportation plan. All 5 rivertown villages are on the board and passed an unconditional resolution. The route 9 steering committee is working on getting State DOT on board. They will work with the local representatives - Harckam, Stewart Cousins along with the villages and state to get route 9 safer.

Tarrytown will try to get parts of the safety plan incorporated into the repaving project in Tarrytown.

John Levy has been working on trying to get traffic calming down by Clinton Street. Police Department has installed a traffic monitoring device - Dan to look at the data. The highest reported speed was 50 mph. There was a traffic calming device placed down there. Awaiting a second report to the board.

4. (Dan) forwarded Tarrytown's new recycling guide to the committee, and everyone recommended getting it posted on the village website. Waiting for edited version from the Village. The flyer was sent to Anthony Giaccio, Dave or Jessica will follow up.

5. (Sarah) Climate Smart Community

Current status of certification is Bronze, good for 5 years. There are actions that need to be updated, some have already expired. Sarah sent resolution to Anthony establishing Sarah as the new coordinator. NYSEERDA program - clean energy communities - new round will be launched that has grant funding attached. We may be able to qualify for that.

6. (Jess) Watershed Protection - Healthy Yard

New Pollinator Garden Installed at Valley St Triangle - installation complete

Fremont Pond: Clearing of trees had been done by Con Ed, but the Sleepy Hollow

Garden club will get a gardener to clear the area on Riverside near Fremont Pond.

Jessica will check with Anthony regarding plans for the pond.

7. January meeting date -- January 4th at 7pm

8. Goals for presenting to Board of Trustees and meeting with Anthony - regular presentations to the BOT, if interested let Jessica or Dave know. Invite Anthony Giacco to attend meetings twice a year.

Meeting concluded 7:37pm

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2020 Priorities

- a. Village grant for improved publicity/education re: food scraps program.
- b. Watershed Protection including Healthy Yards, Pollinator Pathways, Fremont Pond Grant, Village Leaf Pickup Program.
- c. Village Walkability - Priority would be to see new crosswalk at Lawrence and Beekman and crosswalk improvements at Beekman and Pocantico improved/installed in 2020.
- d. Climate Smart Community

Mission Statement

The Village of Sleepy Hollow ("SH") strives to promote resilience and improve everyone's quality of life in our community by enhancing our Urban Forest for future generations. The purpose of this plan is to create a blueprint for decision makers to help align future actions with the Comprehensive Plan completed in 2019, establish core values to help guide decisions made to manage SH's Urban Forest, and create suggested short and long term goals to improve the health, vitality and longevity of our urban forest by making it a regenerative environment.

Comprehensive Plan Ideals

The Village of SH finalized a new Comprehensive Plan in Nov of 2019. The planning goals that are applicable to the Tree Management Plan include:
Improving maintenance of existing parks and trails
Preserving and enhancing SH's natural beauty as an ecological resource for wildlife habitat, air and water quality benefits, public health assets, and an opportunity for residents and visitors to experience outdoors
Incorporating principals of sustainability in future planning work, Village operations, and community assets.

Core Values

Members from the Village and Community identified these core values to allow SH's Urban Forest to develop into a diverse and regenerative ecosystem. By considering these underlying guiding principles during the tree management process, the Village can decrease the amount of maintenance and costs of re-planting in the future.

Right Tree for the Right Place

Plant Diversity

Prioritize Native Plants

Manage Invasive Plants

Short- and Long-Term Goals

The overarching goal for this Tree Management Plan is to help develop an Urban Forest that is prospering in 200 years. We will achieve this by setting short term goals that help the Village achieve the following long-term goals:

Protect our watershed

Manage Storm Water

Mitigate Effects of Climate Change

Create a Diverse and Regenerative Habitat

Improve Resident's Quality of Life