

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee
and Climate Smart Community Task Force
Meeting Minutes, February 7, 2022

via zoom

Attendees: Dave Avrin, Dan Convisser, Char Weigel, Francois Rejeili, Sarah Smiley, Kirsten Hase-McLaughlin

Guests: Anne White, Hubert Herring

Agenda:

1. Approve January Minutes - SHEAC & CSC

2. Trustee Meeting Recap

1. SHEAC presenting items - last year's achievements, this year's priorities

1. Trustee responses - seemed to go okay

1. Did not specifically respond to his reminder about LED letter.

2. CSC presenting items

1. Trustee responses - seemed receptive

2. Kirsten - thought it went very well, gave them a sense of what we're working on

3. Sarah - need to push the point about why climate action is important

4. Kirsten - asked Anthony about list of grants that relate to CSC certification.

3. SHEAC:

1. Food scrap education grant (Dan) - Fiona has talked with DEC about revising scope of work. Dan will get quotes from vendors and get back to Fiona. Beverly will take on some of that work.

2. Watershed protection (Dave): gave input on contractor RFP and hoping to hear back from Anthony about contractor selection. It should be on track to happen in 2022. Important that there's good outreach so people know what's occurring and how they might participate.

1. Background: Fremont Pond contamination became a concern several years ago; stormwater comes in through Peabody woods. Village gathered over the past 5 years or so and developed plans (posted on village website) to improve aesthetics/contamination of Fremont Pond by naturally cleaning water with biological systems. Focusing on what comes in from the south and Rt 9. Contractor is going to use the grant (approx. \$400k) to implement recommendations of the 2 studies.

2. Anne - Kendal had a good presentation from Tracy Brown at Riverkeeper, important to connect with her. Dave - I know her and will connect.

3. Communication / outreach (Dan): updated all of the minutes/organized them. Sent out first e-blast and meeting reminder; wrote blog post. Sarah asked Village to send e-blast about tonight's meeting (Thank you, Paula!).

1. Sarah - should make sure we post mtg agenda on village website.

2. Let Dan know if you want to include anything in the next newsletter.

3. Anne - talking with Hubert about health and environmental impacts of gas powered leaf blowers.

1. Kirsten - Anthony mentioned we'd have better luck trying to shorten leaf blowing season rather than prohibit it altogether.

2. Hubert - Law is only effective if it's enforced.

3. Anne - state bill (Sen. Harckham) introduced to eliminate gas powered landscaping in 5 years

4. Francois - village already has ordinance to limit time of year you can use it - SHEAC got BOT to pass it. Ban in effect May 31 - Sept 15. Why are we revisiting that? Sometimes they enforce it, but it's not a priority.

5. Dave - there was pushback to policy because gardeners have to get new equipment.

6. Francois - think resistance was from the trade not the homeowners. Most use electric blowers in the summer, but still spews debris and remove nutrients from the ground, spreads animal feces into air. The legislation had to do with gas blowers which limited noise and emissions but not other environmental factors.

4. CSC

1. GHG Inventory next steps: report write-up

1. Char will help write up the report for Government Operations
2. Sarah will work on Community inventory

2. Fleet Efficiency Policy

1. Dan - this should be included in the Climate Action Plan.
2. Char - has noticed less idling at DPW.

3. Complete Streets Policy (Dan): Fed govt approved use of NATCO and other guidelines.

1. Kirsten - can policy be reworded to show where it complies with NATCO?

2. Dan - Need to dig in a little more about how to make current policy transparent and accountable.

3. Anne - Something that is lacking is public transportation. Almost 100 people recently moved into Kendal, mostly from the city and don't have cars. Village is looking at a trolley service.

1. Sarah: We can dig into public transportation as part of the Climate Action Plan.

4. Solar Carport RFP (Village has 3 bids for solar projects) - Sarah will email BOT to ask about the status.

4. Grid Rewards App (Kirsten) - anyone who has a Con Ed electricity bill can sign up, get money back for cutting energy at peak times. If 10 people sign up, Village gets \$5,000.

1. Include on e-blast once Village is registered for it.

2. Can include it in a wider energy reduction campaign and get CSC points for it.

5. Community Outreach

1. Sarah - Would be great to bring updates to BOT on a regular basis.

1. Anne - Dept's report to BOT every two months, get on agenda.

2. Community volunteer directory (Char) - C2 Community Coalition (1st Monday of month at 8:30am) non-profits of SH and TT, working on a calendar of events and directory for people to join as volunteers or donate. Any community oriented non profit can join. People also suggested creating a community services directory.

1. SHEAC / CSC can have a listing in the directory.

6. Recycling bins in government buildings (Kirsten): Village does not appear to have an official policy, same with recycling program in public spaces.

1. Dan - this was a SHEAC project a few years ago, not a written policy but

every office has a bin, and most garbage bins have recycling bins next to it.
Could do a spot check.

2. Char - nothing on the Riverwalk, just garbage cans.

3. Kirsten - can see what's there, and then create a policy around it, then apply for a state grant for waste reduction, double win.

7. Recycling program in public spaces

1. Dave - SHEAC put in a lot of time, and Village spent money on it, We should send BOT a draft policy statement.

2. Dave will help Kirsten with recycling policies. Tried to get village to put better markings on recycling bins to say "cans and bottles"

3. Sarah - we can find sample policies on CSC website.

4. Anne - Kendal recycles, but uses a different carter and told it goes into trash because there's no market for it. Dan - maybe you can look into joining the County's recycling program.

5. Anne - Tracy Brown told them that the heavy rain made sewer overflow at Horan's Landing - need to close that overflow.