

2.6.23 SHEAC meeting

1. Minutes taken by Kiko Bourne

2. Attendees: Maya Mendez, Miguel Mendez, Gina Carey, Sarah Smiley, Judi Knispel, Kiko Bourne, Anne White, Dan Convissor, Gabi, Elizabeth Tucker, Bill Batson, Kirsten Hase-McLaughlin, Dean Gallea (TEAC), Char Weigel, Sarah Plimpton, Jacob Webber, Ryan Nukkel

3. Judi motioned to approve January minutes, Gina seconds, approved

4. CEC grant decision: after group discussions, two ideas rose to the top:

1. electric landscaping equipment to phase out fossil fuel-powered equipment

2. electric cargo bike for parks department (wasn't deemed useful for now)

Decision is to move forward on idea #1, and Dean says Tarrytown has used grant funding similarly

5. Village budget timeline/opportunities for input: Departments submit their budgets to Mayor in March, to be presented on the third Monday of March for adoption at the end of April.

Potential inclusions:

-Labeling for recycling bins around town

-Food scrap event materials (can be used for food scrap budget)

-LED lights (may be in capitol budget schedule?)—Kirsten updates that three LED categories are approved; next step is RFP going out

A sub-committee will be created to circulate ideas for the budget, which will be reported back at next SHEAC meeting

6. CSC Points update: To get to bronze we need 120 points; to get to silver we need 300. Due to Sarah's work on greenhouse gas emissions with Char's edits, we get 32 points which will help get us to silver. Hastings, Croton and Ossining are silver. More points leads to more grant money.

7. Zero waste initiative overview:

On 2/10 BOT meeting, trustees asked if SHEAC can look into what the village can do legally to reduce the use of single use plastic. We'll take that challenge to continue work on our CSC actions. BOT has already agreed on resolutions for clearly labeled recycling bins in public places, events and government buildings, and to start the residential food scrap recovery program.

Gina has authored a Waste Reduction Education Campaign as a CSC action. It includes three parts: where does our waste go (an incinerator); how we can reduce waste at home (food scrap recovery program, recycling [and what happens to our recycling], local donations); commercial waste (schools, businesses, events). Goal is for the campaign to not create waste. Goal of the campaign is to get the highest ranking local official to launch it. We're working with DPW to see what programs exist for food scraps from restaurants, schools, businesses, etc. Rockland Green could be a potential destination for our food scraps.

Elizabeth shares that she sees the need for more consumer education around how much of our plastics are actually recycled. Dan will share a video that describes which plastics in our county are actually recycled. Anne suggests the creation of a central resource for information about recycling programs and other relevant news. Char shared that there are several public places in the village that don't have recycling [Horan's landing]; Kirsten will collect a list of those places so we're all invited to report any others to her.

Kirsten raises an idea for the Eastern Parcel which would be a community garden and compost site. We'd limit the amount of compost that goes to the site to a particular stream (e.g. the senior center).

Kiko shared two grant opportunities from EPA and USDA to support promotion of food scrap and recycling programs; will report back in more detail.

Sarah reported that \$12,000 remains in the grant budget for food scrap program promotion. Can cover graphic design, making videos, etc.

8. SPEAR (Sleepy Hollow High School environmental club) Update - Maya: 5 members now, looking for more. Working on a presentation for homerooms to promote the club, inform students about composting/recycling. Says that high school doesn't recycle, and most staff/students don't believe that even paper is recycled. Presentation would include tips for how students can be more eco friendly at home, including selling the home kits. Mother's Day garden fundraiser to fund reduced price kits: pick up a plant for your mother. Gina shared one question that came up at a recent SPEAR meeting: "where there is dropoff for plastic bags", and working with food pantries and health centers.

9. Subcommittees/volunteer opportunities: Sarah shared list of committees.

- Zero Waste Initiative (Kirsten)

- Riversweep (Judi)

- Earth Day (Group discusses that we should do something for Earth Day around April 22, while separately doing the Riversweep event on May 6th). Judi will talk to Diana Loja about what cleanup she may be planning, or whether there's a future community garden we could help with.

Other ideas for earth week: coordinate more with TEAC? Anne will discuss with Rachel; Judi will follow up with Diana. Earth day event of Peabody trail maintenance on 4/22.

- Arbor Day - Bill Batson will find out if the Village has plans for this.

- Fremont Pond remediation: Anne shared that a company was hired to do the remediation, need local stakeholders to be involved in process. This is not a subcommittee of SHEAC, but we are referring people to participate in that effort.

- Safe Routes to Schools: Anne met with 3 others from the Liveable Tarrytowns group to talk about a campaign. Think that beginning with walking should be the first focus, with well painted crosswalks. One challenge is that in Tarrytown there's a transportation committee who handles this, while in Sleepy Hollow it's SHEAC. Complete Streets Policy needs to be revised.

- Events: committee would create a template for how to set up for events, what materials are needed, etc. Gina working on internal events calendar, and a public calendar for the website.
- Budget: see notes above under Item 5.

10. Discussion of SHEAC's website becoming part of the Village website. If we do this, we'll submit content to Bill, who will add it to our site. Anne asks to meet with Bill and Anthony about next steps for our microsite. Char suggests adding SHEAC to the name on the village website, and confirms that she'll post SHEAC meetings on the 10591 community site. Sarah will send out a sign-up sheet for people to indicate which subcommittees they want to be on.

11. BOT Presentation 2.7.23: Updating the board on the climate smart campaign, asking them to consider resolutions:

- Green purchasing policy
- Fleet efficiency policy for municipal fleet
- Sign-on letter for WASS [Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions] (Trash currently goes to Peekskill incinerator; the letter is asking the County Executive to hire a zero waste consultant to figure out how to close down the burner and offer alternatives).

10. Potential Volunteer roles for students from the EF International Language Campus:

- Composting on their campus?
- Repair café
- Cleanups
- Vine cutting
- Smaller events
- gardening events
- Earth Day from TEAC

Meeting ended at 8:54