

## Sustainable Sleepy Hollow (SSH) (aka SHEAC/CSC) Meeting

October 2, 2023

Location: Village Hall & Zoom

Notetaker: Sarah Smiley

Attendees: Susanne, Anne, Deb, Edith, Gabi, Judi, Kirsten, Sarah,  
on zoom: Dan, Char, Gina, Kiko, Rachael.

### Agenda/Minutes

1. Introductions
2. Updates on SHEAC
  - a. Susanne Jones new co-chair.
  - b. Edith Zavala new member: originally from Peru, has lived in SH for 2 years, prior to that was in Tarrytown for 2 years.
  - c. Another new member will be appointed soon.
  - d. Areas of focus: continue food scraps; add stronger focus on gardens (Edith will be part of that group); Complete Streets - draft updated ordinance and come up with next steps; creating a small committee focused on Fremont Pond project.
3. NY Forward update (Kirsten)
  - a. Background: Grant for downtown revitalization: enhance quality of life, enhance resiliency; create housing, facade improvements usually gets selected for part of the money. Village proposes \$8M in projects, then the State picks what is implemented for \$4.5M
  - b. Fill out this survey on website, which also outlines the proposals:  
<https://www.sleepyhollownyf.com>
  - c. Shared information on some of the project proposals (see survey above for all of them):
    - i. Village submitted projects: Streetscaping on Lower Beekman, Cortlandt & Valley streets - paving, LED lights, beautification, drainage; Village lists each street as separate project
    - ii. Community Art Program: murals
    - iii. 47 Beekman Ave (post office and bank) private bldg with private parking - restore facade and install one EV charger
    - iv. 193 Beekman Ave - old UAW bldg, workforce (around median income of the area) and market rate housing
    - v. College Arms - 12 story bldg in parking lot of College Arms, only affordable housing
  - d. Feedback on NYF Workshop 9/27
    - i. Proposal to redevelop the Strand got the most positive feedback; multi-disciplinary arts center, maybe including a welcome center
  - e. Proposal input from SSH
    - i. Discussed whether SSH should recommend specific projects, or provide recommendations based on environmental perspective, and to which parties our comments should be sent: LPC, Consultants, and/or BOT. Previously submitted input on streetscaping projects. Fill in survey online, submit copy to BOT. Kirsten will ask if appropriate to send to LPC.
    - ii. Idea to support the Strand and add sustainability center, comment on streetscaping improvements, College Arms affordable housing,

make Cortlandt St Plaza permanent, include maintenance person (BOT discussing hiring someone for 10 hrs/month)

- iii. Char raised concern that stormwater management should be top priority, and concerned about the Strand project being privately owned for 5 years, they claim that it will be sold back to Village at below market rate, but could change their minds. Kirsten noted that should be dealt with through the zoning and planning board process, not within NY Forward purview. Gina suggested focusing on how the Strand project can be more environmentally sustainable.
- iv. Kirsten - benefit of supporting College Arms is that they will have to meet certain environmental standards, project likely to happen even without NYF money. Need to verify if College Arms is in a flood zone.
- v. Discussed making recommendations to push for higher environmental/energy efficiency standards in the projects, particularly energy consumption and flood mitigation, beyond what State already advises for NYF projects.
- vi. Decided for now to step back from supporting specific projects other than streetscaping improvements, instead make general recommendations - benefits and concerns.
- vii. Edith interested in data on what type of housing units are needed, are needs being served by projects?

#### 4. Climate Action Plan update (Sarah)

- a. VHB working on climate vulnerability assessment, mitigation strategies. Preparing to do stakeholder focus groups, community workshops (ask if they will be recorded), getting ready to launch online community engagement hub
- b. Actions to earn CSC points (in addition to CAP itself):
  - i. Climate change education and outreach - part of community outreach, community workshop
  - ii. Climate vulnerability assessment - will be section of CAP

#### 5. Zero Waste Committee Report (Kirsten)

- a. Waste Reduction Education Campaign (Gina)
  - i. shot video of how to collect food scraps, where to bring them
  - ii. 2 more on the way - Gabi and Rachael on backyard composting
  - iii. Online content has been translated into Spanish. Will wait until Wordpress is integrated for the website, then create more content.
- b. School composting education program (Kiko)
  - i. Kindergarten students are doing great. Teaching lessons in classrooms
  - ii. Starting to think about Pre-K, they eat in classrooms; then looking at Morse.
- c. Food Scraps
  - i. JP school is incorporated, school will weigh next week. Hope to have County's numbers of Village volume in November. Need to get up to 4 tons per week to make the shift to residential pickup. Numbers from April/May/June were at half a ton (did not include school).

- ii. 75 people have completed the online survey about residential pickup, but the survey likely only attracting people who are already interested. Perhaps frame it in terms of saving Village money.
- iii. Oktoberfest, Kirsten put up signs on bins, couldn't stay there - people did not sort well.
- iv. Discussed economics of garbage vs. food scrap pick up - Village doesn't get enough from residents to cover costs of garbage pick up. Taking food scraps out would reduce the amount of garbage being carted, and would save more if village carted food scraps itself, but there may be other costs to account for. Charging residents for how much they throw away could be part of the solution. Village hasn't figured out how to move forward yet. Zero Waste committee can regroup and discuss.
- v. Village is picking up from Kendal once a week. It was complicated to set up, but will expand it Oct 15th.
- vi. If we want bins at a new location, the Village needs to get a request in writing from the building's board or group of residents.

#### 6. Follow-up on Tracy Brown presentation (Judi)

- a. Recommendations for Fremont Pond stakeholder group  
Tracy sent mapping info and water quality samples. Fremont Pond stakeholders can use that info - Susanne, Dave Avrin, Sacha Spector, Anne, and maybe Tracy to review the RFP - Tracy raised concern about whether RFP is dealing with the right issues. Will see if Village can negotiate a shift in the project. School district may also want to weigh in - bring them in after the group has an initial meeting.
- b. Flooding & sewage overflows into the Hudson  
Emergency sewage release at Horans Landing. Riverkeeper has been fighting to close it down because it is now a recreational site. Tracy sent a letter that she had written to the County Environmental Facilities Commissioner. Suggested our BOT send a similar letter, as well as SSH. Judi will draft the letter for committee's review, and get in touch with BOT to ask them to sign. Ask Anthony and Paula to be put on the agenda; ask Tracy what her availability is to join.
- c. Removal of invasive species at Devries Park  
Anne will follow up with Riverkeeper to schedule a date for November. Susanne - it is harder to identify invasives in winter, go out and tag them now, remove later. Remove Jan-March to avoid the poison ivy.

#### 7. Sustainable Sleepy Hollow tabling at events — need volunteers

- a. TaSH monthly table — Oct 14 (Eco-Fair), Nov 11
  - i. Rachael put together 2 posters for composting. Anne will discuss with Rachel, Gina, and Kiko.
- b. Kirsten is waiting to hear back about grant extension, then we can use money for SSH banners, etc.
- c. Location to store materials. Anne is thinking of proposing a small shed, possibly at the back of the municipal parking lot.
- d. Food scrap collection
  - i. SUP Witches Oct 15. Anne, Gabi, and Kirsten will do it.
  - ii. Block Party / Hayrides - 6-10pm. Oct 21. Anne/Deb 6-8pm, Kirsten and Edith 8-10pm.

- iii. PTA events: Pancakes with Santa Dec 16. TEAC is interested in working on events with us. Will coordinate with them. Add this to events tabs on the spreadsheet. Kiko will talk with TEAC and get back to us.
- iv. Spanish-speaking events? Ask Diana. Edith will think about possible events.
- v. Kiko has great bilingual signage at school for the bins. Use this and add SSH logo to post at Village bins.
- vi. Nov 11th - pumpkin smash at peabody. Fire Dept will bring a truck with ladder to smash from. Bring one bin for educational purposes. Carol Vinzant leading the event.
- vii. Tree lighting in patriots park - Anne will talk with TaSH about tabling.
- viii. Ask Volunteer NY for high school volunteers for food scraps at events. They track their community service hours. HS eco club doesn't have an advisor yet.
- e. Street/park clean up in November. Jared wanted us to do it. Anne will look at the calendar to suggest a date. Maybe send a doodle poll. Can advertise through Riverkeeper to get volunteers, and Volunteer NY.

8. New business, old business

- a. Susanne - Mayor trying to form a committee to look at request for community gardens. Marjorie Hsu agreed to look for a location for a garden. Originally looked at East Parcel, but that will take a long time. Erin Carney, Margie Rudick, and Marjorie meeting with Matt Arone tomorrow to look in Barnhardt Park. SSH can take on aspects of it in the future. Susanne spoke with Matt about improving skills/knowledge of staff doing park maintenance. He has a concern about kids getting stung. Will discuss more in November. Gabi - maybe an edible garden instead of pollinators.
- b. Grant for recycling education - Village would have to match the grant. Mayor wants to see more recycling.

9. Next meeting Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm