

November 6, 2023

Sustainable Sleepy Hollow (SHEAC & CSC Task Force)

Location: Village Hall and on Zoom

Attendees: Anne, Susanne, Edith, Deb, Arline, Sarah, Elizabeth.

On zoom: Carole, Rachael, Kirsten

Notetaker: Arline

1. Introductions

2. NY Forward

Update from Kirsten:

There was supposed to be a vote, but added an event to get more feedback at St. Annes, voting this Wednesday.

12 possible projects that might be proposed. They want the village to propose \$8 million in projects and then the state will choose \$4.5M worth of projects from the list. The committee will decide how much to include in the list.

EV chargers project was removed as a possibility.

2 big ones needed to be improved, 1 was College Arms, the other was the former UAW bldg. Debate re street scaping on lower Beekman or UAW building (workforce housing). Voting is Wed to determine what will be submitted. Benefit of submitting College arms is because then they will be required to do more environmental measures.. Can it include a park? State will announce the selected projects in January.

Sustainable Sleepy Hollow submitted comments on green aspects of the projects - top of list stormwater mgmt, adaptive reuse of buildings, incentives for renewable energy, center for welcome in SH, street scaping improvements, recycling signage native trees etc

3. Climate Action Plan

Update from Sarah: Consultant is working on community engagement strategy, to get local engagement so we can be more resilient. Timeline was pushed back slightly, so the community workshops will be closer together. First, there are stakeholder focus groups..First group is village government, happening this week, DPW, fire dept, hopefully mayor, etc. Consultant will share assessment of climate risk,etc. and discuss opportunities for climate action. There will be a Spanish language focus group also.

4. Request to close Horan's Landing emergency sewer outflow

Update from Sarah & Anne: Judi Knispel and Tracy Brown gave comments to the BOT re raw sewage release when there is heavy rain. Judy wrote a letter to the County Dept of Env Facilities to lay out the case for closing the outflow. There were 3 incidents this year, last one was 9/29/23. Request to close overflow permanently. Mayor suggested short term storage of sewage. Tomorrow there will be a BOT vote on submitted his version of Judy's letter, instead of closing the outflow, requesting an immediate redesign of the sewage system with short term storage. Letter emphasizes the health aspects of the sewage outflow at Horan's Landing.

There is no health monitoring oversight of Horan's Landing since the beach is not permitted for swimming. Mayor feels this is a better solution so outflow is not moved to another community. Anne said that these type of storage tanks are underground, not likely to happen soon. Sarah suggested a 2 part solution, in the short term close Horan's landing, and long term build the containment solution.

Discussed whether or not SH has a sewer system that is combined with storm water, which leads to this problem. Kirsten checked notes from the last meeting and Tracy Brown said we do have a separate system, but the project can fail if there is too much water. There are 3 separate owning entities; there is a proposed initiative to consolidate under County ownership. This is an immediate need to separate storm water from sewage.

Do we want to make comments on the proposed letter? The mayor says that all the river towns are in alignment on this. We agree to ask Judy to ask Tracy if the storage idea is a good solution.

5. Pocantico River Watershed Alliance - debrief from meeting at Pace U.

Anne and Sarah went to this event. Mtg was to decide if it made sense to reinvigorate this alliance. Reason this was kicked off was the plan to build a large development above Pocantico Lake. Our committee had testified against the development. During those public comments, Former Mayor Wray said SH was being ignored.

Presented water quality test results conducted by Pace students, who also interviewed people in the area. Rachael said she had been interviewed by Pace students while she was out near the Pocantico. Water quality is not good.

There needs to be someone to lead the Alliance. There had been some tension between it being an advocacy group vs. just providing information. Attendees included Nick Robinson, a professor, Pace students. Tom ? from the DEC estuary program, environmental committee members from Ossining, Mt. Pleasant, and representatives of Peekskill, the County Planning dept, and Stone Barns. One issue is who will organize it, and then we can see how to participate. Not clear what the committee would do. They have info from study, but don't know how to move forward yet. We can request the powerpoint about water quality. The Pocantico River runs through Weber park and other places.

Pace students also did a study about large mammal habitat within the watershed, and a study on animals using culvers as a passageway.

6. Food Scrap Recycling Collection Grant (Kirsten)

The grant deadline was extended; it is all mapped out and just has to be organized. There will be some extra money, small amount. The state loved the hashtag #wastelesshorsemen. Grant covers food composting only.

The village Board approved a separate grant application to study curbside composting. Possible for river towns to share a truck.

Anne will speak to the composting person at Stone Barns about bringing food scraps there, and will include Kirsten in conversation.

The village did not submit the recycling grant; the matching requirement was too high for now.

October events: block party people seemed open to composting, but many people were confused about it. People don't understand how SH recycling works, so public recycling gets mixed with trash and then gets sent to incineration. At the TASH unless there is someone there as a guide,, people co-mingle trash and recycling. More conversations have to happen.

7. Upcoming events. (volunteers needed)

a. Pumpkin Smash 11/11 Carol: Saturday is pumpkin smash, can drop off pumpkins, there will be a fire truck, but the big ladder is not available, Kirsten will have compost. There will be a catapult. Even is from noon to 2:00. There is water access on the field, may use that for rinsing seeds. They have enough volunteers. Susanne and Sarah will bring a table

b. TaSH table 11/11- Anne will do it, could also do a table at the Dec market, still looking for volunteers

c. Pancakes with Santa (12/16/23, 9-10:30) possible Sarah?

d. WI movie night (3/1/24, 6:30-8:30) Elizabeth

e. JP book fair milk and cookies (3/5/24, 5-7 pm) Edith

8. Announcements / New Business

They found a teacher to advise the Eco Club at the HS.

Liveable Tarrytown has launched a pedestrian safety survey. Hoping to get the state to act on this. It is a first step. Children are at particular risk. Not in conjunction with any other organization. Susanne recommends wearing reflective clothes.

Next meeting: Monday, December 4th