

Sustainable Sleepy Hollow - Monthly Meeting

June 3, 2024

Notes taken by Kiko Bourne

Introductions

Attendees: Anne White, Kiko Bourne, Susanne Jones, Elizabeth Tucker, Sarah Smiley, Edith Zavala, Kirsten Hase McLaughlin, Nirajan (Niru) Dave, Jared Rodriguez, Chuck Zeke, Deb Wood

May activities - updates & feedback

- Walk/bike to School Day 5-8, Rt 9 & DOT: Great participation and interest in continuing this event, possibly on a monthly basis.
- Complete Streets adopted – ensuring implementation is now the focus. Trustees will use a point system to ensure actions happen in a timely manner. Administrator will keep track of the points; Jared will continue to keep us informed of progress on points.
- Earth Month Debrief with TEAC –A positive meeting was had, with consensus to do a few less events but that many were big hits.
- Mayor's Monarch Pledge – garden was planted last weekend, in partnership with Ryan Knuckle who donated materials. Susanne is working on signage with a QR code to educate about Monarchs and their life cycle; she'll work with Kiko to get the content online.
- Say No to Plastics events, activities - Pocantico Community Day and Saturday Academy was a success, and Anne wants to do it at TaSH on 6/15. Kirsten will send an email to a group that includes Char to discuss best plan for signing up for summer events.
- Cultural Festival June 1 – new garbage bin – help people sort recyclables, food scraps. Anne noticed people needing more education to use them successfully. The group discussed the need for creativity around sorting at big events (e.g. places where a professional sorts on behalf of the consumers, situating high school students at bins for community service hours.) Kiko will try to get signs to Kevin.

Planning for Summer - Events & Activities

- SSH Table at TaSH, June 15, then 2nd Sat, July-Nov – Leaders, activities, volunteers needed. Goal is to have a different leader for each one. Mayor Rutyna has committed to building a shed for SSH to store event materials.

-6/15: Hudson River Jar Experiment

7/13: Livable Tarrytowns Takeover/Complete Streets?

8/10: CAP update with Boy Scouts stormwater garden display, tips for green infrastructure at homes

9/14: Monarch Butterfly Education?

10/12: Tree commission?

- Mermaid Festival 7-20 – SSH participation: Gina asks whether SSH can help with the zero waste aspect of the festival. Rachael is interested in leading a stand of kids selling lemonade to raise money for SSH. Anne raised the idea of a storytelling circle and/or a skit from a Kendall group for the stage.
- Logo re-design, banners, social media, website, newsletter: Gina's continuing to work with Melissa to finalize a logo so that we can create the other materials and assets.
- Materials for activities, storage location

Ongoing Issues

- School district activities – planning for summer & fall. Anne raises the NexTrex plastic recycling initiative started at WI. Kendall is going to start a NexTrex Challenge 9/1. Kiko is working with TUFSD groups to try to continue the program going forward. Susanne raised the TerraCycle program that Mayor Rutyna floated at a previous meeting.
- CAP Update – next steps are that the boy scouts are presenting their model to BOT tomorrow; outline for the report is coming next before the first draft of report
- Solar installation grant: Village was awarded a \$90k NYSERDA grant to install solar on Village Hall. Jared suggests that Village Hall's roof may not be a good one for solar, and said the firehouse roof may be worth considering as an alternate. Sarah will look into it.
- SSH engagement with NYF approved projects: Strand Theater; Morse park (Plaza Nueva); Cortlandt St. upgrades with new sidewalks/crosswalks drainage, lighting, new street furniture; affordable housing at 100 College St.. SSH role will be to make recommendations to planning board.
- Leaf blower restrictions: Susanne raises the concern that the ordinance isn't on the website. She'll look through the code for the correct language, and Kiko will work with Bill to ensure it's on the right section of the website. The next step will be to have 3+ community members testify at Village Hall about how the ordinance should be enforced.
- Turf field: Susanne spoke with Turf Talents in Hastings which makes a hybrid turf field that uses 5-10% of the plastic of traditional turf. We should send the letter we sent to the Trustees to the school board, recognizing that the District is also considering a new turf field. Jared raises the point that if the village or District buys a turf product that we know has a certain environmental consequence, they are then liable.

Greening the Village

- New installations – Statue Island: Elizabeth is writing an article about the redesign, and wants to know the maintenance plan/schedule so volunteers can be organized if need be. Monarch habitat garden, Morse plantings
- Maintenance: Susanne met with the Mayor, Matt Arone, Jim Husselbee and Glen Rosenbloom to discuss maintenance throughout the village. One consideration is hiring an outside contractor. Jared and Lauren have raised the issue of knotweed already growing aggressively. Susanne will connect Elizabeth with an expert gardener (Mary) who may be able to collaborate on the effort. There's a possibility of a Friends of Sleepy Hollow Parks being created, and/or the Sleepy Hollow Garden Club pitching in.
- Barnhart Park garden to be relocated within the park: Susanne and Jared discussed spots for further pollinator gardens.
- Girls Scout worked on Valley Street garden
- Design monarch habitat education materials as part of the Mayor's Monarch Pledge (English and Spanish): Susanne shared drafts

Mayor / BOT / TUFSD / DPW / Parks & Rec

- Setting up regular meetings, presentations: Susanne and Anne are going to ask Martin if he's open to a monthly 30-minute meeting.
- Dates for next meetings – July 1, Aug 5, Sept 9 (2nd Mon)