

Sustainable Sleepy Hollow  
July 1, 2024

Attendees: Sarah Smiley, Anne White, Deborah Wood, Kiko Bourne, Gina Carey, Susanne Jones, Rachael Sokolowski, Kirsten McLaughlin, Char Wiegel, Jared Rodriguez, Arline Segal, Martin Rutyna  
Notetaker: Kirsten McLaughlin

### Introductions

1. Community Choice Aggregation (Westchester Power)
  - a. Background
    - i. Opt for renewable energy option for CCA
    - ii. Contract coming to an end and the village needs to decide if will renew
    - iii. Community Choice Presenting to BOT with an Memo of understanding (MOU) on July 2nd
    - iv. Has been controversial topic so would like SSH to give a recommendation
    - v. Controversy includes opt out vs opt in - so you are automatically enrolled
    - vi. Supply Rate is fixed for the terms of the contract which will compare to the Con Ed rate
      1. This last year ConEd prices were lower so people are upset
      2. They feel confident that this year renewable rate will be better
      3. This is more competitive than another renewable ESCO
      4. Low income households are not enrolled so as to avoid disproportionate expenses
    - vii. We can also opt in to 50% green but don't know the rates
    - viii. We can also re-enroll for 100% and find out what the price differences will be
    - ix. Renewable power has been hydro before and now incorporating solar and wind
  - b. Sarah will check what happens if individuals already have solar
  - c. The village gets CSC points if we 100% opt in
  - d. SSH supports continuing 100% because it is climate smart. Unless it becomes price prohibitive
    - i. This gives more choice to customers, not less
    - ii. It is a continuation
2. CFA - Grant Consolidated Funding Application Grant
  - a. How can we apply for funding to implement the CAP?
    - i. Must be practical, is beneficial to the village, and gets CSC points
    - ii. Hire an engineer to do a community wide study on green infrastructure to reduce stormwater impact and reduce flooding creating a "sponge city"
      1. This idea earns up to 14 pts and is practical and beneficial going hand in hand with Complete Streets
      2. Could be VHB because have all the data

3. Could take 1-2 years
    4. Capital expenditure that we may be able to match with NYF money that will be applied to Cortland streetscaping
    5. Can apply "in kind" services - meaning the grant pays for village employees
  - iii. Own the solar at Elm street to generate electricity and revenue for the village
    1. This project could reduce the tax bill by 2%
    2. Could take 3 years to see the benefit
    3. Also gets CSC points between 9-20
    4. Difficult because requires capital investment partner to remediate the site
  - b. Grant application due at the end of July
  - c. Fiona presented on possible grants. Martin will forward the presentation
  - d. Sarah will work with CAP to submit information to Fiona for grant application
3. River Cleanup Event Grant
- a. Partner of Riverkeeper - American Rivers - we applied for free trash bags from them for the cleanup
  - b. Char filled out the feedback afterwards and then we won a \$2500 grant to clean the river
  - c. Want to focus on Health of the Hudson, set a foundation for sustainable impact, include students, educate the public, work with partners: Sewage testing at Horan's Landing and have a monthly river sweep before the water testing
  - d. May be able to get some "citizen scientists" or will use Riverkeeper for consistency
  - e. Testing costs \$50 / test
  - f. Next step: Char will have a meeting with Riverkeeper to discuss organize and logistics next week
  - g. Would like to have enough information to recruit volunteers at the mermaid festival
    - i. Work on bringing in the other organizations including studies on Fremont pond, peabody preserve to evaluate water quality
4. Logo Redesign update
- a. Melissa is starting work on them
5. TaSH Tabling Schedule
- a. July 13 - Livable Tarrytowns - Elizabethe & Giselle - complete Streets
  - b. August 10 - Climate Action Plan - Sarah
  - c. September 14 - Zero waste/greening the village - Kirsten M
  - d. October 12- Tree Commission - prep for tree planting in November
  - e. Other events

- i. September 21 - Eco Fair - planet over plastics & highlight all the work we are doing
  - f. SSH Shed proposal beside the senior center. Plan B for Kingsland for supplies
- 6. Compost update
  - a. Need more pickups and more bins
  - b. DPW will order as a group with other rivertowns
  - c. Combined bin ordering in September
  - d. Possible local location in Tarrytown on county house road to add greens (food waste) to the existing browns (yard waste)
- 7. Mermaid Festival updates/volunteer needs - Saturday July 20 at kingsland from 12-4
  - a. Riverkeeper is going to have water testing and river education
  - b. Local artist to display art with plastic
  - c. Gina creating signup genius for volunteers
  - d. Needs bins and recycling bins - Kirsten & Kiko to follow up with Kevin on logistics
- 8. Solar installation CEC grant update
  - a. Solar for on top of village hall using the roughly \$90k awarded to SH
  - b. The village has a grant to fix the roof so can combine the funds
  - c. Placement is on the southern exposed side of the roof so captures more light hours
- 9. Leaf blower restrictions update
  - a. Signs have gone up but slow to implement the ban
  - b. It has gone into newsletters
  - c. Need more ways to implement
  - d. Start discussing with BOT to ask police to start implementing fines for homeowners and raise revenue for the village
  - e. Short messages to have people follow the rules
- 10. Buddy bench
  - a. Follow up on WI's "buddy bench" to have plastic drop off with the village/DPW
  - b. Kendal is starting this in September
  - c. The HS is considering the same for the school year
  - d. We just have to request a Terra Cycle box
  - e. The plastics are very high in phthalates that even if changed into benches then still emits high levels of estrogen
  - f. Revisit at next meeting
- 11. Turf field - Village & WI update
  - a. Susanne wrote to Brian Fried asking what the school district is researching and explained the letter we shared with BOT
  - b. Followed up with Dean at TEAC to ask if there was similar discussion

- c. Our letter was sent to BOT - 3 trustees are adamantly wanting artificial
- d. Environmental lawyer could possibly present to BOT on expected general litigation that they are seeing
- e. Barnhart is causing problems and is due for replacement along with discussion for new fields at East Parcel
- f. Susanne will reach out to Dr. Audrey Brutus who is educating at Saturday Academy

#### 12. Community Gardens update

- a. Susanne meeting with Margie and other gardeners working on Statue Island and deciding protocol on how to work with the group
- b. meeting every other Thursday morning for the time being
- c. How is the BOT being informed? Anthony and Matt Arone are in the loop
- d. Matt has attended

#### 13. Friends of SH non-profit

- a. Active committee on garden maintenance/friends of the parks
- b. Mayor discussing with legal counsel on how to implement and set up so have independent organization
- c. Will create the ability to fundraise

#### 14. Resiliency Grant

- a. Sarah spoke with Anthony on taking components of CAP recommendations, i.e. flooding mitigation
- b. Call tomorrow with consultants and Sarah will ask if this can stack with CFA

#### 15. CAP update

- a. Preliminary list of strategies to be discussed with steering committee tomorrow afternoon
- b. Presentation for July, August, or September
- c. Aim to have a presentation project asap so can point to actions as outcomes of the project
- d. Consider a demo spot for a bioswale