



## Sustainable Sleepy Hollow Monthly Meeting

January 5, 2026

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88609834663?pwd=VaCY9Qi975x2ZwTM0j0CDag9QiJSRv.1>

Meeting ID: 886 0983 4663, Passcode: 208060

Attendees: Char Weigel, Kirsten McLaughlin, Kiko Bourne, Gina Carey, James Natarelli, Edson Andrews, Celia Pain, Carol Vinzant, Ed Andrews, Rich Dooley, Bob Abromovitz, Susanne Jones  
On zoom: Fay Serafica representing Riverkeeper & Westchester coalition for clean water & arts & placemaking committee, Deb Woods, Dan Convissor

Notetaker: Kirsten McLaughlin

### Agenda:

1. Introductions & goal to finish by 8:30 pm
  - a. New joiners - Ed Andrews visiting after getting 83 people to sign the Ban for Gas Powered Leaf Blowers petition, Rich Dooley (new to Kendall on Hudson), Bob Obromovitz (Kendall on Hudson for last 3yrs and head of Environmental Committee), Celia joins river cleanups with Char and is resident of Tarrytown, James is a civil engineer and interested in bioswales
2. Moment of Silence for Anne White - Elizabeth Tucker wrote a beautiful obituary for Anne in the Hudson Independent
3. Old Business
  - a. CAP Next steps (Char) - 2 minutes
    - i. Will include separate briefing meeting for SSH
    - ii. January 15th Planning Board briefing
    - iii. TBD: Tree Commission and LDC briefings
    - iv. Hoping to have the Hub overlay from the consultants ready at the end of January
    - v. Plan to talk with the DPW & building departments at a later time with the plan to better manage the hub for everyone to see updated information
  - b. Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban Next Steps (Kiko) - 2 minutes
    - i. Kiko & Char have been researching following in the footsteps of neighboring villages that have already banned them year-round. We updated the flyer, shared with many neighborhoods, garden groups, village leaders for feedback.
    - ii. It has now been shared with the mayor and trustees also with the 83 signatures petition that Ed coordinated
    - iii. Will be at the BOT January 6th to answer questions from the trustees where we anticipate resistance.
    - iv. We have a local landscaper - Rosewater - who has been helpful, there are other landscapers that use both gas-powered and electric

- v. The brief was mailed out this afternoon so everyone can read it
  - vi. Once we have dates for the public hearing then we will ask for in-person support
  - vii. The updated newsletter shows the agenda items for the BOT
  - c. Rivertowns Food Scraps Update (Kiko) - 2 minutes
    - i. A grant enabled rivertowns to hire VHB (same consultant who did the CAP) for an intra-village food scrap study
    - ii. There was a good meeting with the head of the DPW that we are excited about along with some outstanding questions that remain to be answered
  - d. Library of Things (Carol) - 2 minutes
    - i. Carol spoke with different staff at the library who are in favor but sensing that there may be some resistance from the Board from a logistics and liability standpoint.
      - 1. The concept is that in the same way that you check out a book / dvd you can check out a small appliance or tool in a way to cut down on waste
      - 2. They agreed to consider
        - a. Small items related to crafting, gardening
        - b. Great opportunity to contribute native plants, i.e. seeds from the pumpkin smash
      - 3. For larger items we would need to come up with a formal proposal
    - ii. We are also keeping our eye on a take it or leave it shed for larger items (for an example see the <https://www.hastingszerowaste.org/home/tili-garage>)
    - iii. Fay checking with the Strand on an arts based one - Retake Remake
      - 1. <https://www.retake-remake.org/>
  - e. LED Street Lights status (Kirsten and Char) - 2 minutes
    - i. As a committee we have requested that the mayor and trustees take on this project to include in the capital budget
4. New Business: 2026 Goals and Volunteer Requests
- a. Thank you Kiko for your incredible work on the SSH newsletter and website! Thank you Carol for taking over!
    - i. Kiko created our outreach, newsletter & website - How we communicate with everyone we know. We are grateful for all of the work that Kiko has done
    - ii. We are grateful to Carol for stepping up. Carol & Kiko will meet this Saturday to coordinate
    - iii. The mayor is asking for the website to be incorporated into the village website over time. This is TBC....
    - iv. To help the process be most efficient & also allow for everyone's input we use the [SSH Communications Content](#)
  - b. See "2026 Volunteer Opportunities (Priorities)" below
5. Committee Liaison Updates
- a. Tree Commission - Vines on London Plane Trees Article (Char)

- i. Correction Article Published - December 8 River Journal:  
<https://riverjournalonline.com/around-town/for-the-local-good/sleepy-hollow-village-resources-to-the-rescue/267898/>
- 6. Additional Items
  - a. Art & Placemaking Committee Update - working with Eric Jinnan & Kiko on collecting all the plastics. New collection bins in DeDicco, C-Town, and senior center. Once completed the bench will be put somewhere in the village.
    - 1. Last year Washington Irving did this project and put the bench at the playground. There is extra at Kendall that they are collecting
    - 2. Dan suggested putting more benches at bus stops
  - ii. Also looking at purchasing cement planters and people / business can sponsor them to bring some money in for the village to replace broken ones
  - b. Hudson River Museum Field Trip hosting an exhibit on Throwing Shade on Extreme Heat - Susanne organizing January 10th at 11am
    - i. Please contact Susanne: [dkgirl0804@gmail.com](mailto:dkgirl0804@gmail.com), if you'd like to join!
    - ii. The exhibit is open through Feb 15th
- 7. Adjourn: Target by 8:30 pm
  - a. Next Meeting: Monday, February 2 (Sarah) Village Hall & Zoom

### **2026 Volunteer Opportunities (Priorities)**

Please sign up! Email contacts in parentheses for more information.

1. **Sunday January 11** (1:30 - 4 pm): To help Susanne with the “Growing Native Perennials from Seed” event at Senior Center (Susanne: [dkgirl0804@gmail.com](mailto:dkgirl0804@gmail.com))
  - a. Kerstin Harries
  - b. Arline Segal
2. **Sunday January 11** (5 - 7 pm, 29 Bridge St., Irvington) and ongoing: Contact to represent SSH in [Rivertown Intervillage Sustainability Network](#) on ongoing basis. Occasional meetings between village reps throughout the year to brainstorm [opportunities for collaboration](#). (Susanne: [dkgirl0804@gmail.com](mailto:dkgirl0804@gmail.com))
  - a. \_\_Gina Carey\_\_ (one or two volunteers to serve as ongoing liaison)
  - b. \_\_Kiko Bourne\_\_ (one or two volunteers to serve as ongoing liaison)
3. **January 13 and then likely quarterly meetings after:** Representative to a newly formed organization started by Riverkeeper: [Westchester Coalition for Clean Water](#). Attend in-person meetings, share SSH input and report back to us. (Susanne: [dkgirl0804@gmail.com](mailto:dkgirl0804@gmail.com)) - the objective is for the county to have more accountability to consolidate sewer water network. Updating infrastructure and better management
  - a. James Natarelli
4. **January - March TBD:** Attend Village of Sleepy Hollow Board of Trustee public hearings in support of [proposed ban on gas powered leaf blowers](#). Will update everyone when public hearings are scheduled. (Kiko Bourne: [kbourne@gmail.com](mailto:kbourne@gmail.com); Char Weigel: [caweigel@verizon.net](mailto:caweigel@verizon.net))
5. **January through May:** Volunteers to be a sounding board to Ramapo University Environmental Studies Capstone students on a feasibility study of daylighting a portion of André Brook. This potential strategy is an option included in the Climate Action Plan.

The students would like to have a few residents to bounce ideas off of and ask questions about our village. Time commitment can stretch from answering a few emails to meeting with the students around the village during their field work. (Char: [caweigel@verizon.net](mailto:caweigel@verizon.net))

- a. Elizabeth Tucker
  - b. Arline Segal
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
6. **Saturday, January 31 (10 am) and Saturday February 28 (10 am): Vine cutting at Peabody** (Susanne: [dkqirl0804@gmail.com](mailto:dkqirl0804@gmail.com))
- a. Ed Andrews
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
7. **Late January through April:** A volunteer to partner with Susanne to meet with TEAC and work on a master calendar for joint Earth Month (individual activities will still be managed by specific leads - see next item). (Susanne: [dkqirl0804@gmail.com](mailto:dkqirl0804@gmail.com)). It becomes a promotional role and staying ahead of the calendar so by the beginning of March the dates and descriptions are set so that publicity can begin mid-March. It can be broken up into planner/coordinator and then separately promotional/marketing or 1 person can do both
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Starting in late January through April:** Leads for individual Sleepy Hollow projects for Earth Month
- a. **Compost Give-Back event** (behind the HS admin building)
    - i. Kiko - Tentative April 11th
  - b. **Village Free Day** (village garage sale where everything is free at your curb - on a google map)
    - i. Carol
  - c. **Repair Café** - Rivertown coalition hosting 4-5 / yr
    - i. Gina Looking at dates with TEAC's co-chair Dean looking at one weekend of May 2nd or May 9th
  - d. **Earth Month Festival/TUFSD Green Horsemen Family Saturday April 18th.** To include invitations to environmentally-minded organizations to table (we have a list from last year) as well as Jonas and Lindsay from [It's a Charming Life](#) on thrifting and living in a circular economy.
    - i. Char & Arline to plan with Diana Loja and TUFSD
    - ii. Rachael - will you again organize a day-of hands on activity?
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_ Other day-of volunteers to do a SSH tabling activity with children
    - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ Other day-of volunteers to do a SSH tabling activity with children
    - v. \_\_\_\_\_ Other day-of volunteers to do a SSH tabling activity with children
  - e. **Bird walks and hikes** - Dates/Times to be Coordinated
    - i. Elizabeth Tucker

- ii. Carol Vinzant
    - iii. Stephanie
  - f. **Riverkeeper Sweep May 2, 10 am - Noon** (counted as Earth Month activity)
    - i. Char
    - ii. Annie Bingaman
    - iii. Tara Scheller
    - iv. Celia Pain
  - g. Other tbd
9. **April - November:** Volunteers to plant and maintain pollinator gardens and Statue Island. Meet more frequently in April/May and then biweekly through November. (Susanne: [dkgirl0804@gmail.com](mailto:dkgirl0804@gmail.com))
- a. Stephanie Smith-Marrone
  - b. Fay Serafica
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
10. **Starting in May:** Volunteers for tabling at The TaSH market periodically through the summer and fall (Kirsten: [kirsten.hasemclaughlin@gmail.com](mailto:kirsten.hasemclaughlin@gmail.com))
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
11. **May - August:** Columbia University Student Capstone Project on Decarbonization Opportunities. Serve as SSH/village liaison for students. (Kirsten: [kirsten.hasemclaughlin@gmail.com](mailto:kirsten.hasemclaughlin@gmail.com))
- a. Kirsten McLaughlin
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (co-coordinate with Kirsten)
12. **June 13 - October 10, 10-11 am, Second Saturday:** Volunteers to lead the one hour RiverWalk flash cleanup along RiverWalk. Char will manage signups and promotion but need one volunteer each month to greet volunteers in Horan's Landing, give out the gloves and bags, and take pictures of their collections. (Char: [caweigel@verizon.net](mailto:caweigel@verizon.net))
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ June 13 10-11 am
  - b. Celia Pain - July 11, 10-11 am
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ August 8, 10-11 am
  - d. Celia Pain - September 12, 10-11 am (Rosh Hashanah)
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ October 10, 10-11 am
13. **July 18:** Volunteers to staff a zero-waste effort at the Mermaid Festival
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ (as many as wish to volunteer)
14. **Starting in August:** Volunteers to help organize the Oyster Count-Up to be held in October (date tbd - last year it was Oct 5th) (Char: [caweigel@verizon.net](mailto:caweigel@verizon.net))
- a. Celia Pain
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
15. **Ongoing:** Projects will begin to be initiated from the Climate Action Plan. Working groups and/or volunteers will start after we have gathered information from the Village Administrator on grants and ongoing projects:
- a. Sponge Village - specifically bioswale research/recommendation We have asked for an update from Village on Sponge City grant and sewer mapping grant as

well as Westchester County on 2026 Pocantico Watershed study. [This](#) is the type of information that we want to guide us. CAP team and Tree Commission will give a starter briefing.

- i. [James Natarelli - jnatarelli@gmail.com](mailto:jnatarelli@gmail.com)
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Sleepy Hollow Complete Streets - volunteer to track actions, get documentation from the village for CSC points, coordinate with Safe Streets for All (TUFSD and Liveable Tarrytowns) and [Route 9 Active Transportation](#) Project (Dan). Sarah and Susanne can give a starter briefing. [Interesting article](#) in 01.05.26 New York Times. With the village administrator & DPW we are organizing the approach under one spreadsheet having quarterly meetings to update the documentation. [See our website on intersections already completed](#)
- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Safe E-Bike Use campaign - volunteer to research how other bike share communities have dealt with the challenge of how to encourage use of helmets. And continue to emphasize Project Mover benefits. Start with a briefing from Char. Sleepy Hollow is keeping them over the winter while Tarrytown chose to remove them.
- i. [Dan Convissor - danielc@biketarrytown.org](mailto:danielc@biketarrytown.org)
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Solar panels over Senior Center lot - research barriers and options (start by getting a briefing from Sarah on background to date)
- i. \_\_\_\_\_

**2026 Event Dates (just for the record):** Earth Month/Green Horsemen Festival: Saturday, April 18, 2026 (rain plan inside Senior Center); Sleepy Hollow Free Day: April 25, 2026 - rain date April 26, 2026. Arbor Day Friday, April 24 (Tree Comm event); Riverkeeper Sweep, Saturday, May 2; Earth Month Repair Cafè: April? May?; Pumpkin Smash at Peabody: December 5, 2026 - rain date December 6, 2026

2026 Meeting Chair Schedule:

Jan, Apr, Sep - Char  
Feb, Jun, Oct - Sarah  
May, Aug, Nov - Susanne  
Mar, Jul, Dec - Kirsten



### Gas Powered Leaf Blower (GPLB) Considerations

## Toxicity/Cancer Risks

Unlike four-stroke engines, the two-stroke engines in gas powered leaf blowers do not completely combust fuel, exposing operators & bystanders to harmful levels of toxic and carcinogenic fumes<sup>1</sup> including:

- carbon monoxide,<sup>1</sup>
- benzene,<sup>2</sup>
- toxic aromatic hydrocarbons,<sup>2</sup>
- formaldehyde,<sup>3</sup> and more.

## Did You Know...

- Since 2010, Sleepy Hollow Village Code has banned gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) between Memorial Day Saturday & Sept. 30.
- A ban on GPLBs still allows you to use an electric leaf blower. So no need to give up a leaf blower if that solution works best for you.
- There are equivalently powerful electric & gas leaf blower options for commercial landscapers as measured by:
  - speed of leaf clearance (cubic feet per minute or cfm)
  - power of engine (miles per hour or mph).Argento & Sons (supplier for many local landscapers and municipalities) carries Greenworks Optimus 26N backpack (742 cfm, 169 mph) & Stihl BGA200 (571 cfm, 192 mph).
- Many neighboring municipalities have already banned GPLBs (see "Local Bans"). As such, many landscapers operating across multiple villages already have electric units.
- Residents and landscapers using electric leaf blowers usually have multiple batteries or use a heavy duty battery pack (see "\$ Considerations") to minimize downtime.
- Questions or comments? Reach Sustainable Sleepy Hollow at [sleepy.hollow.eac@gmail.com](mailto:sleepy.hollow.eac@gmail.com)

## \$ Considerations

Electric blower prices have dropped & run time has improved in recent years. A well-cited study<sup>8</sup> compared purchase & operating cost of a commercial-strength electric blower with extended battery pack (Stihl BGA 200 with Stihl AR3000 battery unit) to an equivalently powered GPLB (both for five hour daily run times). The electric option, including battery cost, yielded a positive return on investment (ROI) in under 1.5 years due to the lower cost of electricity vs. gas. That said, conversion to electric, including purchase of multiple batteries, does put financial pressure on landscapers in the short term.



January 2026  
Sustainable Sleepy Hollow

## Time to Adjust

GPLB bans often include a phase-in period to help residents & landscapers plan. Bans by nearby municipalities have already started landscaper migration to electric units. Sleepy Hollow has also begun electric conversion (DPW: 3 electric out of 6 total fleet; Parks: 2 electric out of 5 total fleet).

## Special Risk To Children

The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) of Mount Sinai Hospital supports leaf blower bans because of heightened impact on children's respiratory health. PEHSU states that children are more vulnerable to respiratory danger from gas-powered (2 stroke partial combustion) leaf blowers because they breathe faster, rarely wear protective equipment, are closer to the ground, and have still-developing organs.<sup>10</sup>

## Health Damage from Noise

GPLB sound exceeds safe thresholds even 800 feet away from the source,<sup>5</sup> negatively impacting productivity, health, and quality of life.<sup>7</sup> Also, low-frequency sound is a common cause of annoyance<sup>5</sup> and other stress-induced adverse consequences.<sup>5</sup> GPLBs typically exceed 95 A-weighted decibels (dBA).<sup>7</sup> Prolonged exposure >85 dBA is found to cause hearing loss and permanent ringing in ears.<sup>4</sup> Electric leaf blowers are quieter and operate below harmful thresholds.<sup>6</sup>

## Emissions

30 minutes of yard work with a two-stroke GPLB produces about the same hydrocarbon emissions as a 3,900-mile drive from Texas to Alaska in a Ford Raptor.<sup>9</sup>

## Sources

1. [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11956801/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11956801/)
2. [www.nature.com/articles/ncomms4749](https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms4749)
3. [www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0016236110005661](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0016236110005661)
4. [www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/noise-induced-hearing-loss#1](https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/noise-induced-hearing-loss#1)
5. [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6707732/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6707732/)
6. [www.consumerreports.org/home-garden/leaf-blowers/gas-vs-electric-leaf-blower-which-is-better-a6168456021/](https://www.consumerreports.org/home-garden/leaf-blowers/gas-vs-electric-leaf-blower-which-is-better-a6168456021/)
7. [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6707732/#R6](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6707732/#R6)
8. [olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/42652](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/42652) Note: the findings of this study were adjusted for lower Westchester county gas prices to yield an ROI of 1.5 years.
9. <https://www.edmunds.com/about/press/leaf-blowers-emissions-dirtier-than-high-performance-pick-up-trucks-says-edmunds-insidelinecom.html>
10. <https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/733/PEH-SU-Eastchester-Letter-042210-1-?bidId=>

## Local Bans

Many municipalities that share landscaping companies with Sleepy Hollow have already instituted year-round GPLB bans: Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Larchmont, White Plains, Bedford, Nyack, Mamaroneck & more.



January 2026  
Sustainable Sleepy Hollow