



Sustainable Sleepy Hollow Monthly Meeting  
December 1, 2025

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

Meeting ID: 886 0983 4663, Passcode: 208060

Attendees: Arline, Gina, Susanne, Kirsten, Sarah, Rachael, Deb, Henry Neal (Kendal), Anne, Kiko, Carol, Stephanie, Adanhyr

On zoom: Char, Barbara Carr, Benjie

Notetaker: Sarah

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions & goal to finish by 8:30 pm
2. Thank you to Anne! (Susanne)
  - a. Anne stepping down from board after wonderful service in revitalizing the board
  - b. Anne will be working on getting the CSO closed at Horan's Landing, also collaborating with other villages
3. Acknowledgements of our 2025 SSH Accomplishments & Events (Kirsten)
  - a. Jan
    - i. Char became Co-chair
    - ii. Show on the Road & Helpsy (Kiko)
    - iii. New Logo designed by Melissa Lohman-Wild (Gina)
    - iv. Horan's Landing sewage outflow letter to the village & signs (Carol)
  - b. Feb
    - i. Input to Village Capital Budget (Char and Susanne)
  - c. March
    - i. CAP Board Presentation (Sarah, Char & Gina)
    - ii. Input to Village Grant Priorities (Char and Susanne)
  - d. Apr
    - i. Earth Month
      1. Compost Giveback Day (Kiko)
      2. Green Energy Homes (TEAC - Dean)
      3. Horseman Family Saturday/Earth Month Festival (Char with Kersten, Kirsten, Rachael, Susanne and more!)
      4. Family hikes (Rachael)
      5. Village Free Day (Carol)
      6. DeCicco Tour (Gina)
      7. May Riverkeeper Sweep and Village Planting Day (Char)
      8. May Repair Cafe (Gina)
    - ii. SSH Banners and Booth Signage (Char)



- iii. Funding
    - 1. Operating budget achieved (Char)
    - 2. Devries Park Grant (Susanne)
  - e. May
    - i. Mother's Day TASH - Monarch Education (Kirsten, Arline, Stephanie, Julia, Adhanyr)
    - ii. Westchester Municipal Planning Federation CAP Award (Sarah)
    - iii. River Health Resilience Grant Submission (Char)
  - f. June
    - i. CAP Board Presentation (Sarah, Gina)
  - g. July
    - i. Mermaid Festival Tabling (Susanne, Char & Arline)
    - ii. Climate Action Plan Community Workshops (Sarah, Char & Gina)
  - h. Aug
    - i. CSC Bronze Reapproval (Sarah, Kirsten)
    - ii. Project Maple Resolution passed by BOT (Char)
  - i. Sep
    - i. TASH Tabling - Beyond the Bin (Kirsten, Stephanie, Julia, Adhanyr)
  - j. Oct
    - i. First Annual Oyster Count Up (Char)
    - ii. Douglas Park Tree Planting (Susanne, Kirsten)
    - iii. Morse Garden Clean Up (Rachael)
  - k. Nov
    - i. CAP Accepted by Board of Trustees (Sarah, Char and Gina)
    - ii. TUFSD acknowledgement of SSH (Char)
  - l. Ongoing throughout the year
    - i. Monthly newsletter (Kiko)
    - ii. Vinecutting and planting at Peabody (Susanne)
    - iii. Statue Island and care (Susanne)
    - iv. Rivertown Food Scraps Study (Kiko)
    - v. CAP (Sarah, Char & Gina)
    - vi. Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban (Kiko and Char)
    - vii. Monthly RiverWalk Cleanups (Char)
    - viii. Safe Streets/Complete Streets (Sarah and Susanne)
4. Upcoming Event Status (10 minutes)
- a. December 6 - Pumpkin Smash at Peabody/Rain Date Dec 7 (Carol)
    - i. Fixed the signs, still working on a pumpkin shaped one
    - ii. Sleepy Coffee can't attend due to district requirements, will bring Dunkin instead and collect donations for Sleepy Coffee. Can't donate to SSH, can donate potentially to Friends of Sleepy Hollow, but that org doesn't



have a board to run it yet. Should come up with list of things we'd use funds for. Can give any donations we get on Saturday to Peabody Fund.

- iii. Hoping the fire truck shows up. Do have the pumpkin chunkin' device.
  - iv. Kiko will do a table about composting.
  - v. Susanne will take photos.
  - vi. Volunteers should come at 10:30ish.
- b. December 13 (Saturday) - Horseman Saturday - SHHS, 10am-12:30pm - Making Gifts using upcycled materials (Kirsten / Kersten)
- i. Grape Expectations giving wine corks to be turned into hot plates
  - ii. Both events are open to all interested volunteers!

## 5. Old Business

- a. CAP Acceptance & Next steps (Sarah)
  - i. Let Sarah know if you want to help with implementation - will meet in Dec
  - ii. Consultant is updating the climate hub to incorporate the report - once that is done we will do a big announcement and direct people to the hub.
- b. Leaf Blower Ban (Char/Kiko)
  - i. Spoke with landscaping company - there will be resistance, will meet with SHMA and PMIA, will talk with Phelps
  - ii. Irvington was concerned about backlash but hasn't happened
  - iii. Have updated 2-pager based on feedback with SHMA
  - iv. Webber Park resident already getting signatures on petition
  - v. Timing depends on Tarrytown's timeline, meeting with them next week - hoping to get public hearing in Jan
- c. Library of Things (Carol)
  - i. <https://forms.gle/APfMTFqstQMZTN4v9> - feedback on this survey is welcome
  - ii. Library generally likes the idea, size of items and liability might be restrictions
- d. Compost Bins, Recycling Notes & Competition Follow up from DPW (Kirsten)
  - i. DPW still puts stickers if ppl put recycling in plastic bags - not many ppl doing it.
  - ii. Recycling competition Stephanie will research what Town of North Castle did. DPW will consider possible incentives.
  - iii. Anne will connect Kevin with Kendal residents who lead composting efforts.
  - iv. DPW will try to add third bin to municipal lot, and try to rotate them more often.
  - v. If you have issues with bins, contact DPW to let them know.
- e. Final Rivertown Food Scrap discussion (Kiko)



- i. Working group reviewing report to turn it into a recommendation for the BOT. Need to get more info on financial impact comparisons.
    - ii. Thinking it could pair well with a Pay as You Throw model
  - f. Only Rain Down the Drain
    - i. Sent out info in newsletter, will continue promoting it
    - ii. Magnets and bookmarks - will bring to Horsemen Saturday
  
- 6. Committee Liaison Updates
  - a. Tree Commission - Vines on London Plane Trees Article (Char)
    - i. Char wrote to River Journal to correct the story - think they will publish follow-up this week explaining that the village is taking care of them
  
- 7. New Business
  - a. Monthly Riverwalk Cleanups (Char)
    - i. 2nd Saturday of the month from April through Nov. Needs someone to lead it because Char will be very busy with 250th anniversary, Char will still run May's cleanup.
    - ii. Susanne can lead some of the dates. We can potentially rotate the role. Char can still deal with the scheduling/sign-up of volunteers.
  - b. Westchester Power Information (Kiko)
    - i. Program ended, stay tuned from Sustainable Westchester to see if they can create a new opt-in clean energy program; they also have list of ESCO's you can choose from
  - c. Tax ID Number (Char)
    - i. Diana Loja happy to make purchases on her credit card, automatically will include village's tax exempt number
    - ii. If you need to pay directly, can use tax exempt #, will not get reimbursed by village for the tax
  - d. Field Trip proposal (Susanne): <https://www.hrm.org/exhibitions/throwing-shade-on-extreme-heat/>
    - i. Created shade structures where planting trees isn't feasible
  - e. Columbia Climate School capstone application (Kirsten/Sarah)
  - f. Ramapo University Capstone (Char)
    - i. December 15 Kickoff
  - g. TUFSD Award (Char)
  - h. Capital Budget - process starts soon
  
- 8. Next Meeting: Monday, January 5 (Char) Village Hall & Zoom
- 9. Adjourn: Target by 8:30 pm



**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; Targeting Repair Café in 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



# SLEEPY HOLLOW!

## SAVE TAXES & THE ENVIRONMENT

### ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN



**1**

Cooking oil and grease clog village infrastructure. Our tax dollars are spent cleaning and repairing. Let grease cool and put in trash or pour into a non-recyclable container and discard.



**2**

Leaf litter & grass clippings contribute to pollution and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). HABs cause fish & wildlife die-offs. In 2025, dogs died from drinking HAB-affected water in the Hudson & its tributaries. People cannot safely boat, kayak or fish. Bag or mulch clippings & leaves. Or if you put leaves in the street for village pick up, keep drains clear.



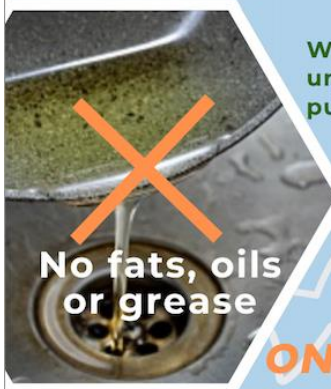
**3**

Sleepy Hollow has many buried streams and low lying areas prone to flooding. When leaves and other materials clog drains, streets flood and cause costly repairs.



**4**

If you use a commercial car wash, water is recycled and safely sent to treatment facilities. If you wash your car at home, do it on a lawn or gravel & dump your soapy bucket in the sink.



**5**

Whatever goes into storm drains ends up untreated in the Pocantico or the Hudson. Do not put chemicals or animal waste in village drains.



Questions?  
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Sleepy Hollow  
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### ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN



## 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 & others 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 between Memorial Day Saturday and September 30.
- Any ban on gas-powered leaf blowers still allows you to use electric leaf blowers at any time. So there is no need to give up using a leaf blower if that solution works best for you.
- There are equivalently powerful electric and gas-powered leaf blower options as measured by:
  - speed of leaf clearance (cubic feet per minute or cfm)
  - power of engine (miles per hour or mph).There is no need to give up efficiency by switching to healthier electric models!
- If you are a customer of a landscaping company that has clients outside of Sleepy Hollow, many neighboring municipalities have already banned gas-powered leaf blowers (see "Local Bans"). So many landscapers have already begun conversion to electric units.
- Residents and landscapers using electric leaf blowers typically have more than one battery to avoid downtime.
- Questions or comments? Email Sustainable Sleepy Hollow at [sleepy.hollow.eac@gmail.com](mailto:sleepy.hollow.eac@gmail.com)

### Positive ROI

Switching to equivalently powered electric blowers (e.g., Stihl BGA 200 for municipalities & large properties) yields a positive return on investment (ROI) in under 1.5 years (adjusted for Westchester gas & electric costs)<sup>8</sup>. Landscaping companies doing business in neighboring communities with bans have already advanced along this return on investment timeline.





## Time to Adjust

Any ban on gas-powered leaf blowers would include a phase-in period to allow residents & landscapers to plan. And our village DPW has already begun conversion with 3 electric leaf blowers out of a 6 fleet total. Village Parks has 2 electric out of 5 total.

## 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.<sup>10</sup> PEHSU states that children are more vulnerable to respiratory danger from gas-powered (internal combustion) leaf blowers because they breathe faster, are rarely wearing protective equipment, are closer to the ground, and have still-developing organs.

## 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

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10. [https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/733/PEH-SU-Eastchester-letter-042210\\_1\\_?bidId=](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.



October 2025  
Sustainable Sleepy Hollow