

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK
COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
March 19, 2024 Meeting**

Members Present: Dan Kushnick (Chair), Lou Young (Trustee), Jen LeClair, Lindsay Reitzes, Dinah Koehler, Debbie Sullivan, Renee Crabtree, Christi Young, Liam Robb O'Hagan, Rachel Hook. **Absent:** Katherine Dehais,

The meeting is called to order at 7:33 p.m. at the Village Courthouse.

Minutes of the February 27, 2024 Meeting are unanimously approved.

Public Comments. (done at beginning instead of end of meeting as permitted by the CFTE). Dave Ferraro, Rolling Lawns, spoke about the Gardeners perspective on the use of blowers. He reports that elective blowers are not currently adequate for professional jobs, although he thinks they will improve. He would like to extend the use of gas blowers until 2026. He says more education is needed for homeowners, who want their properties to be very clean. It is a hardship on landscapers who have invested in gas equipment; there are no subsidies or rebates for them.

Per Liam: Right now, Gas and electric blowers are allowed from 9/30-5/15. A new law was passed that will allow only electric on these same dates, but there was blowback by landscapers. Details regarding the Village exemption and who gets fined have not been written.

Jen reports that Jeff Ahn suggested using gas in the fall for a heavy clean up, which would lessen the need for clean up in the spring. The issue of early killing off of pollinators was raised as a problem with this method.

Jen and Liam will continue to examine the leaf blower use issues.

Email Protocol. Dan raised the issue of CCing all committee members. No consensus was reached, but members should think before routinely CCing everyone.

Earth Day Events. Larchmont Farmers Market, April 20: Lindsay and Dan will be there from 8:15-11, Debbie from 10-1. We will not have a table at the Larchmont Earth Day on April 27. Central School Earth Day on April 24: Liam will attend. Debbie will follow up with Courtney re: bins.

Upcoming Events. Jen is having a new composting sign made with the pick up information. It is larger and will be more visible. The sign at the PO is outdated and needs to be replaced. The sign in Rye Neck is hard to read due to its current location and size. Question remains as the best placements for the signs.

Lindsay reports that the Clothing Swap was a great trial run. The early time slots were filled, with less interest in the later times.

Community Clean up. Committee members should be at HI by 9:00 am for a 9:30 start. The Mayor will speak. Lindsay suggests selling the compost bins near the compost give away.

Native Garden Tour. Dinah reports that the LMPP will be having a 4 garden tour in the spring. She is interested in having more native gardens in the village. Discussion regarding the need for maintenance of existing gardens by committee members. Right now, we have the Dog Park, Harbor Island, Columbus Park, Rockland and Nostrand Pockets.

STEM. Decision made not to participate in this event.

New Members. Jen and Liam each have a candidate in mind for the open spot on the committee.

Committee Reports.

Ecologically Sound Open Spaces, Mamaroneck Greenway, Invasive vines in the rivers. Liam reports Kate recommends that an outside vendor be used for removal. We will wait for Kate to be present to discuss further.

Climate Smart Communities Task Force. Liam is doing the scoping document for an EV campaign. Debbie reports that we have approval of our submission for Tier 1 of the CEC Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign; we will be getting \$5,000 for this. The CEC has opened up opportunities for more grants as we accumulate points.

Composting. Jen, Lindsay, Rachel and Debbie are working on an event for International Composting Awareness Week May 5-11. There will be an Elementary and Middle School poster contest with an exhibition and celebration of the posters on May 6 at 4 pm at the Library. Debbie will have a table that same afternoon at the Library with bins for sale and informational materials.

Real Estate Educational Pamphlets. Dinah will follow up with Mary.

Updates.

Unified Solar Permit. Lou says this will be happening.

Community Garden. We are still looking for a new location. Dan met with Jeff Ahn who will meet with Dan Sarnoff to find a new suitable location. Rene reports that currently, the garden is flooded. Despite this, there are 9 people on the waiting list.

Database Landscaper information, Native Plant Species. Jen has a list of landscapers that use electric equipment, but they need to be vetted.

New Business

Florence Park renovation has included cutting down multiple very old trees. The community has been upset by the number of trees. Suggestion is to email the BOT about the importance of old growth trees.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debbie Sullivan