

VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
January 16, 2024 Meeting

Members Present: Dan Kushnick (Chair), Lou Young (Trustee), Lindsay Reitzes, Katherine Dehais, Dinah Koehler, Mary Shiffer, Debbie Sullivan, Renee Crabtree, Liam Robb O'Hagan, Rachel Hook. **Absent:** Jerry Barberio (Village Manager), Jen LeClair, Christi Young. **Guest:** Tony Gelber (Flood Mitigation Committee).

The meeting is called to order at 7:32 p.m. at the Village Courthouse.

Minutes of the December 19, 2023 Meeting are unanimously approved.

Introduction of members, new member Rachel Hook.

Discussion Of Goals for 2024 and any need for New Sub Committees.

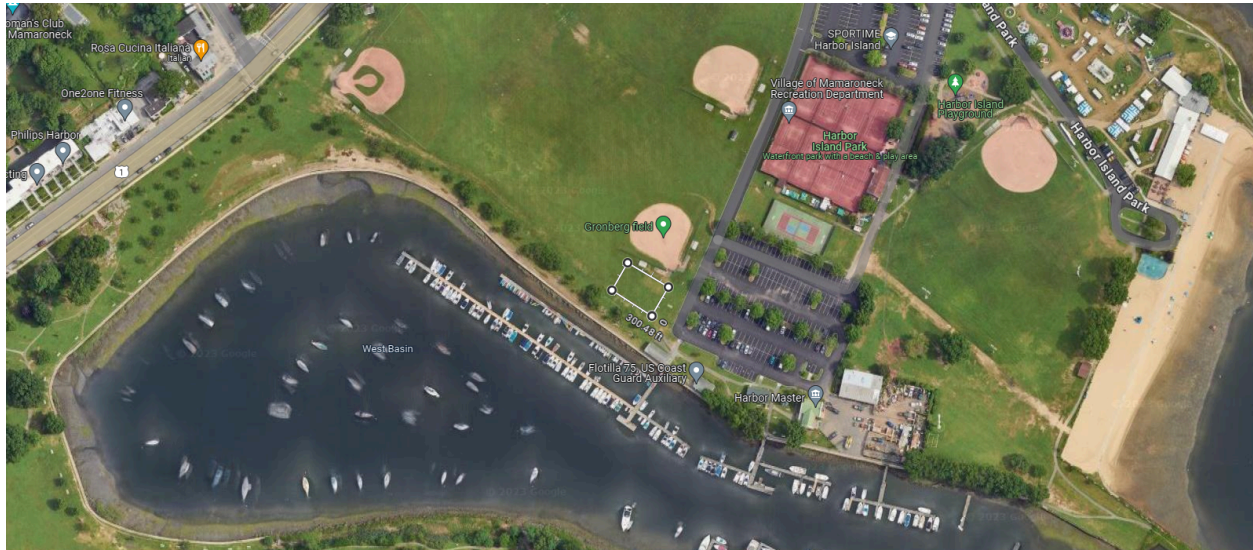
Taylor's Lane. Dan K. would like to see this released to the Village by the DEC. Per Lou, the DEC is leaning toward the idea of a solar array. David Freeman and Jerry are following up on this. Jerry was to report back to us his findings from Americo, a solar panel company, regarding the feasibility of installing and using solar panels.

Community Garden. Renee has prepared a map of the proposed size and location in Harbor Island near the Senior Center. The committee unanimously approved the following resolution which Renee will forward to Dan Sarnoff to get on the next BOT Work Session, January 22.

The CFTE asks that the BOT approve the relocation and associated costs of the Community Garden from its current location on Fenimore to be established in Harbor Island near the Senior Center. (The small white rectangle in the photo below)

The current location is no longer suitable as it floods regularly and gets almost no sunlight. The new location gets plenty of sun, is near a water source, has access to parking, is not prone to flooding and can be used as a demonstration site for healthy yard practices. It is proposed that the new garden in Harbor Island be larger, an overall size of a 50' x 100' enclosure, to accommodate more garden plots. There is always a waiting list for plots despite the difficulty of growing plants in the current location, and it is anticipated that demand will be higher due to the higher visibility of the location and more attractive aspects noted above. For reference, the current Community Garden enclosure is roughly 36' x 36' which accommodates 12 plots.

Liam suggests contacting the current garden members so that they can give their support to the proposal. There is some time sensitivity to get this approved so that the garden can be ready for spring planting in April.



Subcommittees

Native Plants and Healthy Yards: Jen and Dinah

Greenway: Kate raises the idea of this being a separate task force as people from other committees beyond CFTE are involved.

Events Committee/Education: Lindsay agrees to chair. The Winter Seeding Event on January 13, organized by Lindsay, Jen and Mary-Elizabeth Schaub, at the Library was a huge success; about 50 attendees. Other proposed events: Ribbon Cutting for the Community Garden, Garden Tours, Tony suggests a rain barrel and rain garden demonstration.

Media/PR: Rachel agrees to help with this. Lindsay has been updating our Instagram, asks that we send her things to post. Mary will write up a Realtor Guide. Lindsay asks that people take a look at the CFTE Website, send updates to her and she will forward to Jerry. Liam suggests keeping topics broad so that they remain relevant and not quickly outdated. Lindsay has created a shared drive. Files can be stored here to free up email space.

2024 Events Calendar

Spring Cleanup: Saturday April 13, rain date April 14; 10-12 Harbor Island; Compost Give-away. Lindsay will coordinate with Parks.

Ribbon Cutting for proposed relocated Community Garden: Saturday, April 6, rain date April 7; noon.

Garden Tours: Dinah will coordinate. She would like to do 2-3 Gardens on a weekend day featuring a specific feature (for example, a rain garden), and schedule 1-2 per month starting in June.

Clothing Swap: March 16. Lindsay will reach out to Rye Neck students.

Plant Swap: May 11 in the Poetry Garden.

Fall Cleanup: Saturday November 2, rain date November 3; arrange for shredder.

Monarch Festival: late September. Lindsay will help coordinate, but will need other significant help.

Committee Reports

Ecologically Sound Open Spaces, Mamaroneck Greenway. Kate has a meeting January 22 with LISS to discuss the grant. Lou, Jerry, David will. She met with Jerry, Dan Sarnoff & Lou today to discuss easements and the salt shed parking lot ahead of the LISS meeting. On January 31, Kate will be doing a walk through a section of the proposed Greenway from below Rockland past the salt shed at Fenimore with representatives of a landscape architectural firm who are interested in the project. On February 7, she and David Freeman will be meeting with the Westchester Land Trust representatives to learn from their expertise. Regarding the Columbus Park section of the Greenway, Tony brings up the need to work out a legal agreement with the ACE. Lou explained that to save time, ACE is allowing the Village to do some of the work which can come out of the county's \$21million share. Per Lou, the Jefferson Parking lot open culvert redesign is too costly for the Village to undertake.

Food Scrap Recycling - status of subscriptions, tonnage. Jen and Jerry are both absent. Dan reports that the Village had 52 tons in 2023. We need to compare this to previous years.

Updating "Leave the Leaves" literature. Jen sent it to Jerry, need to follow up with Jerry. Sign by the P. O. is not up yet. Lindsay is following up on signage at the intersection of B.P.R. and Harrison Ave.

EnergySmart Homes. Debbie and Liam are following up with Sustainable Westchester and the Building Department to clarify what data can be used to apply for the Level 1 grant. Promotional efforts will be needed to work towards the next levels.

Database Landscaper Info/Native Species. Jen put a list of "green" landscapers on the shared drive, but they need to be vetted. Lindsay, Mary and Liam will discuss and follow up.

CSC. Meeting tomorrow. Ellen Silver submitted for Bronze designation. Liam will follow up with Dan S. on the Unified Solar Permit.

Leaf blowers. Per Lou, a ban on gas blowers was passed in November, but 3 amendments still needed to be discussed: 1) Municipal exemption, 2) dates allowing electric blowers, and 3) who should be fined, currently homeowner, landscaper and equipment operator. At the December BOT meeting, Landscapers objected strenuously to the ban, so the law is going to come up again to the BOT. The Committee has already made our position clear in favor of the ban. We

agree that our focus should be on finding and promoting green landscapers, educating ourselves about the concerns of landscapers and educating residents about healthy yards.

Artificial Turf. Dan reports that the organization Fields for Kids are putting in artificial turf at the field near the Town Center which is owned by the TOM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Sullivan