

Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative

Meeting Notes, October 4, 2016

Attendees: Nancy Seligson, Steve Altieri, Mitch Green, George Roniger, Frank Owens, Michele Lewis, Marc Karell, Neha Dhanik (by phone), Sue Odierna

Greetings and Call to Order

Minutes of both July 5th conference call meeting and September 14th regular meeting were approved.

Budget discussion – *Discussion continues about remaining funds from 2016 budget and planning for 2017 budget. The TOM Operating Budget for 2017 needs to be approved by mid-November 2016, with the Capital Budget approved by mid-December.*

Climate Smart Community Certification

Nancy reported on the press event and press coverage of the Town becoming a Certified Climate Smart Community. The coverage has been posted to our Facebook sites and Nancy showed examples of the coverage to the group.

Sustainability Collaborative/Sheldrake Event – Sunday, October 16th, 2PM – 5PM

The Sustainability Collaborative will participate at the Sheldrake Environmental Center (SEC) fall festival. We will call the event a “Leaf-In” and conduct leaf mulching and quiet leaf blower demonstrations. We will also display and sell rain barrels. It was suggested that we create a flyer to provide “leaf” information to the residents including leaf blower regulations. Mitch suggested we send a letter to residents promoting mulching and quiet leaf blowing. It was decided to move forward with a letter in the spring. Sue will remind Mitch in January to get this initiative started. Neha mentioned reaching out to schools and churches to promote mulch mowing. The Collabs thought this was a great idea but decided we don’t have the manpower to make this happen at this time. Sue suggested she could reach out to MHS teacher Sophia Andrews to enlist student volunteers at Sheldrake and these students could help spread the word. Neha also mentioned the website leleny.org (“love ‘em, leave ‘em”). Perhaps some verbiage from this site could be used on the flyer for Sheldrake.

Action Items: Sue O will organize Collabs to staff the TOM Collab table at the Sheldrake Event
Nancy S and Sue O will create a flyer / mailer for Leaf Blowing, Mulching, Raking...
Michele L will create a new TOM Banner, using the Collab background

Energy Data-- Wegowise

Frank updated the group on Wegowise, the online tool for tracking utility data. Frank reminded the Collabs that the application is user-friendly and intuitive and would be a better alternative to EPA’s Energy star program or the current program the Town uses, Facility Dude. Steve A. asked for references for other Towns working with WEgowise. Frank clarified that Wegowise has not yet worked with Towns in New York State, but has worked with Los Angeles and New Orleans. Frank asked for copies of gas, electric and water bills to send to Wegowise so that

they can get back to us with next steps. (Sue emailed Frank this information on 10/5.) Nancy said this is a major priority for the Town in order to show our progress in reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Action Items Sue O mailed Frank O copies of the TOM utility bills for his discussions with WegoWise

NYPA / NYSERDA Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Nancy S related that NYPA has a new program offering a discounted price to install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, which could be combined with a DEC Grant for 80% financing at attractive rates. This opportunity sounds appealing to the Town.

Action Items Sue O will gather the necessary info on process, and identify what may be required to write the Grant Application. Mark M, Marc K and Mitch G can assist with the Grant app as needed.

Resilient Infrastructure – Microgrid

Frank suggested that we schedule a presentation from Booz Allen regarding the microgrid project. He thinks it is still valuable to have them meet with MHS, Sarah Newman and the Town. Steve A and Nancy mentioned that NYPA is interested in the Microgrid project and is willing to do an analysis comparing the microgrid proposal versus supplying generators for all the buildings that were part of the micro-grid study. NYPA appears to understand that the Town values this project from a resiliency standpoint and a financial view. Booz Allen regarded it from an economic perspective. NYPA also has a dashboard project they are rolling out in January, 2017.

Action Items Nancy S & Steve A will follow up with NYPA, to determine what they can do
If possible, Nancy S and Steve A will request NYPA to proceed immediately with their comparison study.
NYPA is also preparing its own Dashboard for municipal customers – “NY Energy Manager” – scheduled to be released in January – TOM will investigate with NYPA
Frank will ask Booz for November meeting options.
It was agreed that these efforts should proceed simultaneously.

Water Quality – Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES)

The SSES project, reviewing and analyzing the Town’s lateral sanitary sewer lines has begun. Four municipalities are working together: TOM; Pelham Manor; New Rochelle; VOL. All sewer lines are being videoed and smoke tested. The job should be completed by August 2017. One of the “visible” activities of this study is to smoke-test the sewers as part of the process to identify leaks. It was suggested that this might make a useful and informative Community Education and Outreach event (a “Smoke-Out”?), so that residents might understand what their taxes are paying for, and why. It may also be of interest to MHS AP Enviro students, perhaps a field trip could be planned for students. Sue is to determine the consultant team’s schedule for TOM sewer inspections and report to the Collab at the November meeting. Based on this schedule, the Collab will consider possible events & timing.

Resilient Infrastructure – Green Infrastructure/Town Center Parking Lot/ Landscape, etc

The parking lot renovation project has gone out to bid. Bids are due before the end of October. Mitch G/Michele L/Steve M working on identifying Landscape, Wayfinding, Lighting and Signage Consultants who may be interested in helping TOM develop a holistic environmental design for the Town Center Site, from Rockland to the

Post Road. Some of the 2016 Collab Budget funds are proposed to be used for consultant fees; the developed plan is proposed to as a 2017 TOM Capital Investment Budget item.

Action Items *Collabs to develop a shortlist of consultants & coordinate with TOM on RFPs and the selection. Funding to be allocated from the 2016 Budget, not all services need be completed by years' end*

Quality of Life and Sustainability -- Biking Safety

Mitch and Steve M. have contacted Jonathan Orcutt for additional consulting services with immediate goals to include assistance with detailed implementation studies in TOM as well as presentations to TOM Traffic and the TOM Board. The areas most in need of bike paths are an alternative to Weaver Street from Palmer Avenue to the Post Road and the Larchmont Train station to Murray Avenue School. Steve M. and Mitch to update Collabs at next meeting. Bike racks were noted as another priority for public facilities, including schools and train stations. Part of Jonathan Orcutt's deliverables were to identify areas where additional bike racks should be prioritized. TOM should collaborate with the Environmental Committees of VOL and VOM on this

Action Items *Steve M and Mitch G to identify specific scope of work, schedule and fees for Jonathan Orcutt to support TOM efforts, and get this reviewed and approved by TOM.*

Dedicated Collab Summer Intern – Collab Budget Item

In reflecting on the remarkable success of this summer's "Environmental Interns", the Collab proposed that part of its 2017 Budget be devoted to a Collaborative Summer Intern position. Possible focus areas might be to update the Columbia Near-Zero Waste Study, or to apply to achieve the next higher level in TOM's Bike-Friendly Community (BFC) rating.

Action Items: *Sue O and Nancy S to verify conditions when an intern can be paid, is not allowed to be paid, what the likely timeframes would be and what the net Summer Intern cost might be to the Collab Budget. Sue O to report at the November meeting*

Collab Spring Event

Discussion was held on the possibility of a TOM 2017 Spring Event. There was enthusiasm for a Community Outreach and Education Event which included: Green Lawns and Gardening (Pesticide-free, mulching, low-noise blowers, etc); Near Zero Waste (raking, TOM litter program, reducing yard waste, increasing recycling); publication of the "Recyclopedica" (on the website, link to Facebook, weekly posts, etc); Long Island Sound Water Quality (sewer "smoke out", residential sewer laterals inspection program, etc); cross-Generational discussions on priorities (MHS students, long-time TOM residents, etc)

Action items: *With the overall goal to aim toward an April / May Event, the Collabs will take up this subject again at following meetings*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 1st at 6pm at our regular meeting location of the VFW.

2016 Priority Initiatives – Task Force Leaders

- Air & Noise Pollution
George R
- Walk-able, Bike-able Mamaroneck
Stephen M
- Improve Water Quality
Nancy S, Michele L, Beth R
- Maintain & Improve Infrastructure
Steve A, Frank O
- Improve Community Preparedness
Tony G
- Renewable Energy & Local Energy
Frank O, Marc K, Mitch G
- Near-Zero Waste Community
Mitch G, Steve A
- Education & Awareness
Michele L, Beth R