

## **Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative**

### Meeting Notes, January 10, 2017

Attendees: Mitch Green, Nancy Seligson, Steve Altieri, George Roniger, Frank Owens, Beth Radow, Marc Karell, Mark Manley, Neha Dhanik, Sue Odierna, Michele Lewis, Tony Gelber, Lesley Jane Seymour, Steve Moser, Mike Flynn (Bike Routes Consultant), Kristin Andersen and Elizabeth Poyet (from Larchmont Environment Committee), Victor Tafur (VOM Trustee), Jennifer Mebes Flagg (New Castle Sustainability Committee)

Minutes of December 6, 2016 meeting were approved.

#### **Quality of Life and Sustainability -- Biking Safety**

The Town Board meeting approved the \$5,000 budget item for Bike Routes Consultant at the December 7, 2016 Town Board meeting. This amount was from the Collab 2016 Budget. Today, consultant Mike Flynn toured the TOM to look at potential bike routes.

#### **Next steps:**

- Mike will put together a preliminary presentation for the Collabs for February.
- Mitch will work with Steve and Nancy to determine timing of the presentation to the Town Board.
- Route recommendations presented to the Town Board by March.
- Implementation of bike routes by Memorial Day to coincide with "Bike Month."

Beth R. mentioned public education as a priority and asked if that would be part of Mike's presentation. Mike responded that it is not but he did feel it's a priority item. Mike reported that studies show design intervention and signage can influence social behavior.

Steve M. asked VOL committee members what the timeline is for Larchmont bike lanes to be implemented. Elizabeth P. to follow up and report back in February. Kristin A. recommended getting French community involved in publicizing as they are already active bike participants in the Town.

**Action Items:** Collab to determine what public education piece is and who to handle.

#### **Reusable Bag Initiative (RBI)**

Frank Owens suggested hearing from the Town of New Castle about their recent RBI law. Jennifer Mebes Flagg of the New Castle Sustainability Committee presented to the Collabs "Developing your Reusable Bag Initiative." Basics of the New Castle law include a ban on single use plastic bags in most stores (grocery, convenience stores and pharmacies) and a 10 cent charge for paper bags. The initiative was promoted as a pro business movement as it saves stores money on bag costs.

The New Castle group started working on the project in 2014 by first getting merchants on board. A local realtor agreed to sponsor 1,500 reusable bags. They worked to get the Girl Scouts, Farmers Market vendors, patrons (800 signature petition from visiting Farmers Market) and environmental clubs to support it. Information on

social media sites was used to reduce perceived risks. Banners, posters and window clings were made for merchants and retail areas.

The ordinance has violation fees, but Jennifer's research shows that municipalities don't actually charge the fees. Her committee felt the ban is much more effective as a positive initiative (free bags, saves money, pro-business) rather than using just an environmental approach.

Collaborative member Lesley S. contributed her research regarding plastic bag bans with facts about other municipalities who have implemented the ban both locally and nationally. Main points:

- Legislation should be uniform so village to village there aren't different regulations
- Contact Chamber of Commerce to get retailers on board
- Ensure local residents are supportive and show up at meetings, not simply elected officials
- Don't go after plastic alone; make sure paper is addressed as well. There should be a fee for paper bags
- If possible, the Town should have reusable bag giveaways (possibly supplied by local retailers who can advertise their logos on bags)

A majority of members said they were interested in pursuing a RBI.

Jennifer reported that New Castle's Sustainability group has two high school students on their Board. The Town Sustainability Collaborative seemed interested in this idea.

**Action Items:** Nancy spoke with Lesley after the meeting and she is willing to lead this initiative.

### **Near-Zero Solid Waste TOM -- Increase Recycling Efforts/Edit Sanitation Guide**

Neha is working on the Recyclopeda guide that she is editing for TOM. The goal for completion is March 2017. At that time, Neha will present it first to the Collaborative and then to the Town Board. There is a lot of information to update and report. Henry Case, our winter intern is helping with this effort. The Sanitation Guide was updated with input from Neha and design consultant, Barry Caro. The guide was sent to the Printer at the end of December. (UPDATE: Guide has been mailed to all Town residents as of 1/13/2017 and will be put on our website as well.)

**Action Item 1:** The Collabs will support Neha's presentation to the Board in March.

**Action Item 2:** Sue O and Neha will consider how to further publicize the TOM "Recyclopeda," including in educational programs at the schools, and how it might be featured at spring 2017 Environmental Events.

### **Resilient Infrastructure – Microgrid**

Mark M. mentioned that while attending a NYSERDA conference in December, he met a representative from a Mamaroneck based company, Unison Energy (<http://unisonenergy.com>). They build Combined Heat and Power systems for hospitals, grocery stores and other critical infrastructure in the size range the TOM is looking at regarding the microgrid. Mark would like to get a proposal from Unison and he would like to send them the Booz Allen report.

**Action Items:** Mark M is organizing an introductory presentation by Unison to the Collab for the February Meeting. Focus will be on Unison's Relevant Experience. How Unison sees the options for addressing TOM and related institution objectives (Resilience and Alternative Energy as well as potential Profit), and initial

thoughts about the microgrid(s) the Collab originally proposed to Booz Allen Hamilton, and what might make a viable project(s).

### **CARRY-OVER ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **Quality of Life and Sustainability – Leaf Blowers (from November/December meetings)**

**Action Item 1:** Collabs to draft and send a letter to the Town Board suggesting the current leaf blower law be changed to: a) make the minimum fine \$150 for the first offense; b) remove a judge’s ability to reduce the fines; c) consider progressively higher mandatory fines for further violations; d) consider placing the names of “repeat offender” gardeners on the TOM website; and e) consider a “three strikes you are out” provision so that repeat offenders face a fundamental consequence to continued flouting of the law.

**Action Item 2:** TOM to purchase, with 2016 Collab budget already ear-marked for this purpose, a quieter gas-powered “Stihl” leaf blower to use in specific conditions.

**Action Item 3:** Beth and Michele suggested developing a “raking” educational program for spring 2017, which can be demonstrated at a variety of venues and events. A preliminary proposal is needed in time for the February meeting. George R. identified several parents who felt their teens could be part of a raking program. ;

**Action Item 4:** Mitch will draft a letter to residents in January to promote quiet leaf blowing and leaf mulching. He’d like letter to be mailed out to Town residents this spring.

#### **Water Quality/Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study – SSES (from October meeting)**

**Action Item 5:** Is the Collaborative still considering having an outreach event in conjunction with the smoke-testing of sewers. (i.e.: “Smoke-out,” potential field trip w/AP students)

**The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the VFW.**

### 2017 Priority Initiatives – Task Force Leaders

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Air & Noise Pollution    | George R                   | Renewable Energy & Local Energy | Frank O, Marc K, Mitch G |
| • Walk-able, Bike-able TOM | Stephen M                  | Near-Zero Waste Community       | Steve A, Neha D          |
| • Improve Water Quality    | Nancy S, Michele L, Beth R | Education & Awareness           | Michele L, Beth R        |
| • Maintain & Improve Infra | Steve A, Frank O           | Climate-Smart, Zoning & Codes   | Nancy S                  |
| • Community Preparedness   | Tony G                     |                                 |                          |