

Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative

Meeting Notes, June 8, 2021
(Meeting via Zoom, 6pm – 8pm)

Attendees: Mitch Green, Jeff King, Sue Odierna, George Roniger, Mark Kramer, Kevin Crowe, Arlene Novich, Michelle Lewis, Elizabeth Poyet, Nick Zuba, June Wallach, Jacob Levitt, Eliza Pertz, Frank Owens, Ellen Martin, Marc Karell, Mark Manley, Beth Radow, Judy Caputo, Denise Dunn

Guests: Janice Kaplan of Harrison

Notes of May 2021 meeting were accepted.

Mitch G welcomed everyone. Marc Karell introduced Janice Kaplan of Harrison who is interested in starting a food scrap recycling program in Harrison, but she has found that Harrison has a lot to do before getting there. Janice also mentioned that stores are still putting food in Styrofoam and that she thought a law was passed banning this within Westchester County. Mitch suggested she reach out to our County Legislator, Catherine Parker or George Latimer.

Events -- Healthy Yards Webinar, Bee Team Video, Pollinator Pathways

June gave a recap on the Healthy Yards webinar hosted by Dr. Sarah Evans of Mt Sinai Hospital's Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health. Over 110 people registered for the webinar which was very well received and recieved many mentions on social media. June also noted that the Bee Video created by the MHS Bee Team would be shown on LMC Media Thursday evening June 10 at 8pm.

Elizabeth P. promoted the Pollinator Pathways Garden Tour coming on June 13 and asked for volunteers to email her to assist at the various local homes along the tour. There was also mention of the HOW Green event on June 6 which focused on Pollinators as well.

Climate Emergency Declaration

Beth R explained this initiative which focuses on inspiring local leaders to prepare for climate change. More than 1,920 jurisdictions have adopted this declaration including several countries. On May 13th, New Rochelle passed the resolution declaring a climate emergency. The resolution requires the municipality to look at their codes, regulations and procedures through the lens of climate change minimization, preparation and adaptation. Passing a Climate Emergency Declaration would potentially enable the Town to access funding that is under an "emergency umbrella." Perhaps we could then get action more quickly, and put less strain on existing Town resources. It's also a way to get more people involved. First, a policy is built – the procedural structure to combat and respond to climate change -- and then the Advisory Committee (which the Collaborative could take on) looks at specifics to effect change.

Update: The Collab will discuss the Climate Emergency Declaration at our July 13 Meeting, with the goal to forward a recommendation to the Board before the end of the summer.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Tree Team – Updating Mamaroneck’s Tree Code

Arlene explained that the committee is looking at the Town’s tree code line by line. They feel enforcement is a big part of the issue so that trees are not cut down randomly. They are aiming to get the draft of the tree code completed by the end of June. Discussion ensued about trees, moratoriums and how trees might fit into the comprehensive plan.

Update: The Collaborative sent the 2021.0708 Tree Code Update to Supervisor Seligson and Board Member Jeffery King on Friday, July 9. The Tree Code Update will be discussed with the Town Board at the Collab’s visit to the Board Work Session on July 21.

MINIMIZE WASTE

Repair Café

George R is starting to think about the specifics of the Repair Café. Kevin C and Wendy G are helping organize and both Village Environmental Committees have said they want to participate as well. George R to schedule a meeting with those interested in helping with the Café.

Update: The Mamaroneck Senior Center has been booked for Saturday, October 16th for the rescheduled and first-ever Town of Mamaroneck Repair Café!

Community Fridge

Judy C. explained a program started by an MHS alum who teaches at a charter school in the city. Produce is transported from the Hunts Point Produce Market to 22 community fridge locations in the Bronx. They are looking for volunteers to transport the food. Installing a community fridge in lower Westchester is one of this student’s goals. Mark K. suggested the student contact Fresh Direct as they do similar work. Judy C asked if the MHS alum could use the Collab’s table at the Farmer’s market for Community Outreach and Education. The Collab agreed.

CLEANER, MORE RELIABLE ENERGY

Community Solar and Grid Rewards Campaigns

Update: Sue Odierna has submitted, and NYSERDA has accepted, the Town’s campaign documentation and sign-up lists. This qualifies the Town to receive \$5,000 in funding for each campaign to be focused on further Energy-saving programs.

New York State 2021 Stretch Energy Code

Update: The Town Board has adopted the 2021 NYS Stretch Energy Code. This Code advances energy savings in both new construction and renovation through higher standards for floor, wall and roof insulation as well as higher-performance windows. Economic analysis of the Stretch Code suggest that, for typical residential applications in our area, the payback period for applying the code will be 7 – 8 years.

Sue Odierna has submitted to NYSERDA documentation showing ToM’s adaptation of the NYStretch Energy Code 2020. We are awaiting their approval.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Energy Sustainability How-To on October 4

Frank and Nick discussed the “Saving Money by Reducing Energy Costs” presentation to be given on Oct. 4th – this will be the first of three Sustainability seminars that June has been working on along with the Center for Continuing Education (CCE). The focus for this first presentation will be:

- How to make your house more energy efficient
- Low-cost Improvements
- Resources (NYSERDA, etc.)

June suggested topics not be too heavy -- top three things to know, how to save money with renewable energy, keep it simple.

Update: June worked with Frank O, Marc K, Mark M and Nick Z to refine the presentation outline and submit it to the Center for Continuing Education in late June. The Center will start advertising the presentation in August. Marc K and Nick Z will be our live presenters on ZOOM.

OCRA (Original Science Research Action) MHS Students “Green Mamaroneck” App

Mitch reported that the OCRA app has been launched. The goal is to update the app every three months (as well as this summer) to tune up certain areas where text and icons can use some improvement. The GreenMamaroneck App could assist in building awareness of the Climate Emergency Declaration – part of the fall update could be the question, ““Where do we see the impacts of the Climate Emergency in 10538?”

Update: The Town has agreed that one of the OCRA Students can assist the Collabs as an Intern this summer to update the App and fine-tune the content to prepare for the 2021 Q4 Update to launch in late September.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

The next meeting will be held on: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 @ 6pm at the Mamaroneck Senior Center, 1288 Boston Post Road, on the back deck if weather permits. Otherwise, in large dining room (entrance up ramp on side of building).

Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative

Meeting Notes, July 13, 2021

(Meeting Live, Senior Center, 6pm – 8pm)

Attendees: Mitch Green, Jeff King, Sue Odierna, George Roniger, Arlene Novich, Michelle Lewis, Nick Zuba, June Wallach, Eliza Pertz, Ellen Silver (VoM CFTE Chair), Karin Weisburgh, Beth Radow (via telephone) and interns Anna Brause, Alex Boswell and Sebastian Gold

Notes of June 2021 meeting were accepted.

Summer Interns for the Sustainability Collaborative/Supervisor's Office

Anna Brause gave a brief history of the Town's efforts regarding our Climate Smart Certification, achieved in 2016 and that we are now renewing this certification as it expires after five years and the municipality must continue to make environmental progress to stay certified at the same level. Anna reported that, per the advice of our Hudson Valley Regional Coordinator consultant, the Town submitted many actions even though some may not be awarded. The main effort was to continue our bronze level certification which is pretty certain and we will find out in late August. We have the opportunity to submit more actions and try for silver certification before their next review period in January 2022.

Update: Supervisor Nancy Seligson informed the Collab that, as of July 30, 2021, the Town of Mamaroneck holds the second-highest Clean Energy Community rating within all of New York State!

Sebastian Gold is helping the Tree Team prepare for the Tree Committee's presentation to the Town Board next week, and then will be assisting with the GreenMamaroneck App and other initiatives.

Alex Boswell is working with Michele Lewis, June Wallach and Mitch Green on edits to the OCRA "Green Mamaroneck" app. Alex reported that he can track usage through Google Analytics. There are a couple hundred users. Feedback has been very good regarding the app. The goal is to update the app every three months (as well as this summer) to tune up certain areas where text and icons can use some improvement. Specific areas for attention include:

- TEXT Edits to make sure that the content for each Topic and Sub-Topic is clear and accurate
- Review of each Sub-Topic's LINKS, to see if better/more current information can be included
- Reviewing each Topic's ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, to focus on relevant, interesting, & action-inducing content

In addition to these near-term tasks, Alex will help the Collab:

- Learn how to edit, add items and delete items from the app (including "passing the torch" to Sebastian G, who has agreed to assist the Collab going forward as his time allows)
- Take a step back to consider our target audience(s), and see how we can improve the Visual and Verbal identity of the App to make it more relatable and engaging
- Consider how best to integrate a "Sign-up-Calendar" feature into the "Get Involved" section of the App
- Think about how we might tie our Topics to the seasons, perhaps including a monthly "Quick Tips" feature

MINIMIZE WASTE

Repair Café

George Roniger has put together a planning committee. Both Villages have offered their assistance and George will be reaching out to potential volunteers. George will be working with his team to organize their pre-event tasks, identify key people to be in charge of certain components, and coordinating community outreach and education.

Update: The Mamaroneck Senior Center has been booked for **Saturday, October 16th** for the rescheduled and first-ever Town of Mamaroneck Repair Café!

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Tree Team – Updating Mamaroneck’s Tree Code

Arlene Novich explained that the committee sent their revision of the Town’s Tree Code to Nancy Seligson, Jeff King and the rest of the Town Board to review; the Tree Code Update will be presented to the Town Board for discussion later in July. Arlene explained they took a very thorough look at the tree code and the result is a much more detailed code. Discussion ensued about trees, moratoriums on tear-downs, and concern about the tear-down moratorium ending and how that could affect trees coming down once again. Jeff K. said the moratorium on teardowns is in effect until October and that AKRF, the Comprehensive Plan Consultant, hopes to present recommendations to the Town Board before the moratorium ends.

Update: Due to a very heavy agenda, focused primarily on the Comprehensive Plan, the Town Board postponed the Tree Code discussion until the August 17 Town Board Work Session. Also, the Town Board has decided to discontinue working with AKRF on the Comprehensive Plan update (and the Residential Housing Study). Councilman Jeff King can give a brief update at the Collabs meeting

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Climate Emergency Declaration

Beth Radow called in to explain this initiative, which focuses on inspiring local leaders to prepare for climate change by treating it as the emergency it is, thereby potentially unlocking emergency powers/funding for use by the Town. As a member of the Larch/Mamk League of Women Voters, Beth explained that the New York State LMV delegates as well as League chapters in seven other states passed the Climate Emergency resolution. More than 1,920 jurisdictions around the world have adopted this declaration, including several countries. On May 13th, New Rochelle passed their own resolution declaring a climate emergency.

The Climate Emergency resolution requires the municipality to look at their codes, regulations and procedures through the lens of climate change minimization, preparation and adaptation. Passing a Climate Emergency Declaration would potentially enable the Town to access funding that is under an “emergency umbrella.” Perhaps we could then get action more quickly, and put less strain on existing Town resources. It’s also a way to get more people involved. First, a policy is built – the procedural structure to combat and respond to climate change -- and then the Advisory Committee (which the Collaborative could take on) looks at specifics to effect change.

Update: The Collab will discuss the Climate Emergency Declaration at our August 10 Meeting, with the goal to forward a recommendation to the Board before the end of the summer.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Healthy Yards – Robomowers

Heidi and Erik Pande Horn gave us a demonstration of the Robomower outside on the front lawn of the Senior Center. As they explained it, the Robomower gently “nibbles” at the grass and as such, can be used daily to maintain a healthy lawn. It can be charged and set up to run without supervision once the barriers are properly set up and it is quiet and gasoline-free.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm

The next meeting will be held on: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 @ 6pm at the Mamaroneck Senior Center, 1288 Boston Post Road, on the back deck if weather permits. Otherwise, in large dining room (enter via ramp on side of building).

Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative

Meeting Notes, August 10, 2021

(Meeting Live, Senior Center, 6pm – 8pm)

Attendees: Mitch Green, Jeff King, Sue Odierna, George Roniger, Arlene Novich, Michelle Lewis, Nick Zuba, June Wallach, Beth Radow, Frank Owens, Mark Kramer, Karen Khor, Jim Call, Jacob Levitt and intern Sebastian Gold

Volunteer Nanci Nubile joined us.

Notes of July 2021 meeting were accepted.

MINIMIZE WASTE

Repair Café

*George Roniger updated us that he is getting in touch with volunteers who had signed up for our Covid-cancelled Repair Café of March 2020. There were 31 volunteers slated and he and Kevin have begun to reach out and plan a meeting for the rescheduled first-ever Town of Mamaroneck Repair Café to take place on October 16, 2021 from 12 noon – 4pm at the Senior Center. Both Villages have offered their assistance. So far the potential repair tables are: woodworking, sewing, electronics, electrical appliances, sharpening, mechanical, editing/writing, seed/plant swapping, bicycle repair, jewelry repair, and more to be determined. Intern Sebastian G. has offered his band to play background music at the event. There will be a Children's Corner and free snacks/baked goods at the event as well. George would also like to make use of the outside and asked if we could have a tent set up for this purpose. Also, George noted the email address for potential volunteers is **mamaroneckrepaircafe21@gmail.com***

Update:

A press release has been drafted/approved and will go out to the press on Sept. 16th. A sign (for the Palmer/Weaver intersection) and banner (for the Senior Center) have been ordered from Signs Plus and should be ready week of Sept. 13th.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Climate Emergency Declaration

Beth Radow mentioned she heard from County Legislator Catherine Parker that the County is putting together a climate resolution. How can we promote this? Maybe we have a film contest where a topic is picked (ie leaf blowers) and people submit short films illustrating their take on combatting climate change.

(As a background from the previous month's meeting -- The Climate Emergency resolution requires the municipality to look at their codes, regulations and procedures through the lens of climate change minimization, preparation and adaptation. Passing a Climate Emergency Declaration would potentially enable the Town to access funding that is under an "emergency umbrella." First, a policy is built – the procedural structure to combat and respond to climate change -- and then the Advisory Committee (which the Collaborative could take on) looks at specifics to effect change.)

The Collab stressed the need to tie the global picture to local concerns – “What can we do?” “How is this affecting us?” “Can we do anything locally to reduce these impacts?” “Beyond our coastal zone, are we really impacted by the changing weather, storms and sea levels?”

Jeffery K suggested that the Town should look at the New Rochelle declaration. Does all the work the Town has already done justify a declaration, or is there more to do, and a declaration would be a way of focusing everyone's attention and linking together actions on a number of different fronts? Jeffery K suggested that the Collab put forward ideas for each of our initiatives.

Update: It would seem that in the past few weeks both storms (Henri and Ida) have linked the global picture to local impacts, damage, loss and increased expenses for the Town and for our residents. We will continue this discussion at the September meeting.

Lions Club Community Service Fair

Karen explained to the group that on Saturday, September 25th the Lions Club will host a fair at two locations – Hommocks School Parking Lot and Harbor Island. There will be tables where residents can stop by and learn about different initiatives and organizations in our community. The Collaborative will have tables at these locations. June pointed out that our priorities are all connected and there should be a one pager describing all that the Collaborative does. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 26th. Interested volunteers should contact Karen. Pollinator Pathways will also have a table at the fair

Update: Due to the extensive flooding in the VoM, Harbor Island is only being used for flood-relief efforts and all events are cancelled there through Sept. 30th. As such, this fair will now take place only at Hommocks Parking Lot.

Update: We hope to review an updated “one-pager” at the September meeting

OCRA –Green App

June is working with Michele on editing and smoothing out the content of the app. Though it was released to the outside community, there has not been a big campaign letting people know about it, so this is a good time to tweak it.

Town of Mamaroneck Comprehensive Plan - AKRF

Councilman Jeff King updated the group that after five to six months of working with AKRF, the Town Board determined they were not tuned in, not prepared and in addition, there was confusion as to the role of the Steering Committee, so the Board has ended its relationship with AKRF.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Trees

Mitch and Arlene will present the updated Tree Code to the Town Board on August 17th

Update: The Tree Code Update was presented to the Board on August 17. The discussion focused on a one-page list of “Priority Actions” (enclosed with these minutes) for the Board’s consideration. The Board agreed to study the Update and consider what might be done in the short term, with the understanding that any change in the law will require a public hearing. The Board noted that as a group they understood the importance of trees to our community. The Board expressed support for “Value for Value Replacement” when trees are proposed to be removed.

Update: In the past month there have been further examples of the shortcomings of the current code, including the problems with exemption of properties less than 20,000 sf and the problems arising from the lack of clear criteria for tree removal applications. The Tree Team will be considering next steps.

Community Solar

Frank updated the group on Community Solar, explaining that despite much effort, there were significant hurdles getting LMI (low to moderate income) residents signed up. Discussion ensued on how to get to others – can schools sign up?

Update: The good news is there is no more room in Hommocks Park Community Solar for residents - approx. 100 have joined. If others are interested in reducing their electricity costs by up to 10% each month, they can still participate by joining another available solar farm from the Sustainable Westchester website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

The next meeting will be held on: **Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 6pm at the Hommocks Ice Rink Community Room.** Park your car or bike towards end of pool lot and walk up pathway separating Fling Park from ice rink building. Enter community room through side door

Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative
Meeting Notes, September 14, 2021
(Meeting Live, Hommocks Ice Rink Community Room 6pm – 8pm)

Attendees: Mitch Green, Jeff King, Sue Odierna, George Roniger, Arlene Novich, Michelle Lewis, Frank Owens, Mark Kramer, Karen Khor, Eliza Pertz, Elizabeth Poyet and intern Sebastian Gold

Notes of August 2021 meeting were accepted.

MINIMIZE WASTE

Repair Café

George Roniger updated us that he now has volunteers for all listed tables. He asked Sue to arrange for a tent outside and asked if the Rec Dept. might also have a tent they could borrow. Sebastian said he would add the Repair Café to the Mamaroneck Green App. Sue to send press release out to our media list this week and will follow up on ordering pizza and water for volunteers. Mark Kramer suggested looking into whether the Sierra Club would co-sponsor and what that involves. As a reminder, the Repair Café debuts at the Mam'k Senior Center on Saturday, Oct. 16th from 12 noon – 4:00 pm. In addition to the repair tables, there will be live music, a children's corner and baked goods.

Update: Press release went out and was covered in the press. Facebook posts have continued. A sign (for the Palmer/Weaver intersection) and banner (for the Senior Center) are both up. We have two tents available for use, the Collabs tent that is back "living" at the Myrtle Blvd kiosk and the Rec Dept. has agreed to lend a tent and will drop off at Senior Center.

Collabs interested in baking, please let Sue know so we can coordinate.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH

Lions Club Community Service Fair

Karen reminded the group that on Saturday, September 25th the Lions Club will host a fair, but now at just one location -- Hommocks School Parking Lot (due to flood-relief efforts at Harbor Island). Lindsey registered us for two tables. Pollinator Pathways will have a table at the fair too. The fair will consist of tables where residents can stop by and learn about different initiatives and organizations in our community. Karen said we need a one-pager describing all that the Collaborative does and a sign-up sheet for prospective volunteers. Mitch to talk to Lisa McDonald and Ellen Silver and get a document together. Karen said Collabs would also have a table at "Larchmont Day" where they can sell food scrap bins and talk to potential volunteers.

Update: Mitch created a one-pager document. Volunteers received several names/contact info of those interested in volunteering with the Collaborative that Karen and Sue have contacted.

OCRA –Green App

Mitch is to send edits to Sebastian for the Green App. Discussion about making Collaborative internship process more organized and productive. Eliza suggested we have a Collab point person to supervise/organize interns and offered to take on this role.

Pollinator Pathways

Libby mentioned that Kevin has been helping her with this initiative along with VoM CFTE volunteer Renee Crabtree but they can use more volunteers. If interested in helping with Pollinator Pathways or finding out more information about this group, please email Elizabeth (Libby) Poyet at epoyet@gmail.com. She also reported that they have a donor who would like to plant some gardens but the donor needs to receive a proposal that includes cost and that maintenance is the biggest part of the cost. PP will have a table at the Community Service Fair. Libby also mentioned the new certified AGZA "Green Zone" at Kane Park in Larchmont, an under-utilized park in Larchmont. Green Zones are certified as such by AGZA (American Green Zone Alliance) after measurable reductions in GHG emissions and noise pollution are made. These zones model sustainable landscaping practices by using low-impact electric equipment and hand tools for grounds maintenance.

Continuing Education Seminar on Saving Energy

Frank Owens reminded us that Collabs Marc Karrell and Nick Zuba will give a "Saving Energy" free class via Zoom on Monday, Oct. 4th with Larchmont Mamaroneck Center for Continuing Education. Read the details and register for this class here: <https://registration.xenegrade.com/lmcce/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=2828>

Update on Food Scrap Recycling

There was discussion about how food scrap recycling continues with regard to the schools and the County. Jeff King said he would reach out to Steve Altieri for an update on the County food scrap program. Mark K asked if his emails noting food scrap data should come less frequently, and also does the relationship with the County change any details?

Climate Emergency Declaration

Mitch asked that we brainstorm various topics to advise the Town on policies to minimize damage and costs next time there is a flood emergency and that the Collabs should advocate for a "Climate Emergency Declaration" especially in light of recent flooding events. Mitch will create a draft with ideas to suggest to Town Board.

(As background from August's meeting -- The Climate Emergency resolution requires the municipality to look at their codes, regulations and procedures through the lens of climate change minimization, preparation and adaptation. Passing a Climate Emergency Declaration would potentially enable the Town to access funding that is under an "emergency umbrella.")

Update: *The Collaborative prepared, reviewed and submitted the following to the Town Board for their review on September 30, 2021: Cover Letter, signed by 17 Collaborative members; Town of Mamaroneck Climate Emergency Declaration Draft; and the New Rochelle Climate Emergency Declaration legislation, approved May 2021.*

Update: *The Collaborative will meet with the Town Board on October 20, 2021. A major topic of discussion will be the ToM Draft Declaration. In advance of that meeting, the Collaborative will forward to the Board, by October 15, a list of "Immediate Action Items" that the Board could pair with the Climate Emergency Declaration.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM

The next meeting will be held back at our regular Senior Center location, but in a new room: **Tuesday, October 5, 2021 @ 6pm at the Mamaroneck Senior Center, "Yellow Room."** Park your car or bike in the Senior Center lot and enter through enclosed porch in the front of the building. The yellow room is to your left.

Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative

Meeting Notes, October 5, 2021
(Meeting Live, Senior Center 6pm – 8pm)

Attendees: Mitch Green, Jeff King, Sue Odierna, George Roniger, Arlene Novich, Frank Owens, Mark Kramer, Karen Khor, Elizabeth (Libby) Poyet, June Wallach, Joel Gray, Nick Zuba, Beth Radow, Marc Karell, Kevin Crowe and intern Sebastian Gold

Guest: Eleanor Peck of the Hudson Valley Regional Council -- consultant to the Town assisting with CEC (Clean Energy Community) and CSC (Climate Smart Community) certifications

Notes of September 2021 meeting were accepted.

Outreach and Education

Continuing Education Seminar on Saving Energy

Marc Karrell and Nick Zuba gave a recap on their “How to Reduce your Carbon Footprint and Save Money on Home Energy Use” class held via Zoom on last night with Larchmont Mamaroneck Center for Continuing Education. It was a well-received class with 45 people registered and Collabs who participated gave it high marks for its information and delivery. Mitch asked June what other sessions are planned and June responded that “Healthy Yards” and “Love your Food” are the probable topics for 2022 sessions.

Update: For those who would like to watch the presentation, LMCCE has provided the info below:

Meeting Recording:

https://link.zixcentral.com/u/23eff1cf/JAl0aYn7BGY6ooph3soMg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fus06web.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FUkSLhqeCrXOqyiGjeCfDglRA3RpagQv_q6UsyI5CniyZEAphzkWatUb-ufXuzcdi.1oBTSs9W67HXUWuw

Access Passcode: Kn%An1ma

Climate Smart Communities

Mitch reported that Town Supervisor Nancy Seligson would like Collabs to help with our CSC recertification, just as several Collabs had helped with the Community Solar and Grid Rewards campaigns of this past year. He then introduced guest Eleanor Peck who explained where the Town is in terms of our CSC certification, what needs to be accomplished and by when (see attached for extensive details). The basic “to do’s” involve getting two priority actions approved in order to maintain the bronze certification we received back in 2016. We have the 120 points needed for bronze, but without the two priority actions approved, we are not certified. We applied for 28 actions but several were and are not doable currently in the Town. Eleanor believes seven are most doable, the easiest being the “Climate Education and Engagement” action. To achieve silver certification, we would need a total of 300 points. Mark K. asked how many other municipalities are certified and Eleanor mentioned Bedford, Ossining and Hastings as the communities nearest to us that are certified. Mitch said he would speak to Nancy and Sue and put together a small group to work on these actions to reapply by the next deadline of January 22, 2022.

Regarding CEC certification, there was discussion about the CEC grant money (\$45,000 has been approved so far) and Eleanor said the Town is potentially also eligible for two more \$5,000 grants for EV's and Clean Heating. There was further discussion re: CEC about PACE financing (one of the CEC actions) and why didn't the Town Board pass it. Jeff K. said the Board did not like the wording, there was concern about liability. There was also discussion about hiring grant writers and Eleanor said the cities of New Rochelle and Beacon do hire grant writers.

Update: Sue spoke to Nancy about grant writers and Nancy said that grants have been written by companies that have been hired as part of the construction/engineering project work, such as Barton and Loguidice, PC, who wrote grant for the Madison Avenue Green Infrastructure. However, there is discussion within the Town Board about adding a grant writer to the budget who could be used on a consulting basis (not full-time).

MINIMIZE WASTE

Repair Café

George Roniger updated us that he now has plenty of volunteers though he still could use someone for jewelry and also, clocks. Kevin and Sue updated on other items -- Tents have been arranged, a sign at Palmer/Weaver is out, banner at Senior Center is up, several social media posts have gone out and will continue to go out, press release went out, waiver details are confirmed. We will post on Town website. As a reminder, the Repair Café debuts at the Mam'k Senior Center on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 12 noon – 4:00 pm. In addition to the repair tables, there will be live music, a children's corner and baked goods.

Update: The Town's Repair Café was a big success. Over 40 residents brought items in for repair. The spirit was very positive and friendly. People enjoyed the free snacks and baked goods. Fixers seemed to be happy that we provided lunch (pizza) for them and really gave their all in trying to fix everything that came their way. Reviews on social media were excellent and the community cannot wait for us to hold another repair cafe. Much thanks go to the volunteers especially Kevin Crowe, Mark Kramer and George Roniger who planned this event.

Community Health

Climate Emergency Declaration

The Town declaration, based on the New Rochelle model, was submitted to Nancy and Jeff on September 30th. The Town Board is to discuss it at their work session on Oct. 6th. Beth reiterated the importance of the Town looking at all issues through the lens of climate emergency, including the Comprehensive Plan. Nick and also June agreed that this is not a stand-alone issue. Mitch said he likes that this resolution sets the path so the new Town leadership can ensure that all departments (Zoning, Planning, etc.) look through a sustainability lens. Jeff mentioned that the Town Board is talking about environmental issues at every meeting.

Update: Mitch and others from the Collaborative attended the Oct. 6 Work Session and will update Collabs at next meeting

Trees

Arlene reported that the Village of Mamaroneck wants to update their tree code and will be working with the same consultant that the Town worked with. In the Town, currently staff is discussing possibilities regarding the updating of Town's code.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next meeting will be held at the Senior Center “yellow room” location. **Tuesday, October 26, 2021 @ 6pm at the Mamaroneck Senior Center.** Park your car or bike in the Senior Center lot and enter through enclosed porch in the front of the building. The yellow room is to your left.

Note: Though this meeting is also in October, it is our “November” meeting being held a week early! The next meeting and last meeting for 2021 will be on December 7, 2021.

Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative
Meeting Notes, for “November” held on October 26, 2021
(Meeting Live, Senior Center 6pm – 8pm)

Attendees: Mitch Green, Jeff King, Sue Odierna, Arlene Novich, Frank Owens, Mark Kramer, Karen Khor, Elizabeth (Libby) Poyet, June Wallach, Michele Lewis, Nick Zuba, Karin Weisburgh, Kevin Crowe, Mark Manley, Jake Levitt, and intern Kat Warwick

Notes of October 5, 2021 meeting were accepted. (We had two meetings in October, due to need to reschedule November meeting.)

Mitch welcomed everyone and mentioned that Kat Warwick would be interning in the Supervisor’s office part-time, two days per week with Collabs volunteer Denise Dunn. They will be gathering data in order to resubmit the Climate Smart Community certification due in early January.

Community Health

Tree Canopy Preservation

Discussion about how to move Town Board forward regarding increasing the tree canopy. Suggestions were made to start a petition, that there needed to be a groundswell to get the TB moving. Other comments were that if trees are part of the Climate Emergency Declaration, there might be more of an urgency to do something about trees. The sentiment was that the County will want the Town to pass the Climate Declaration and this can help the Town to get trees. Nancy had reported to Mitch prior to this meeting that the Collabs should not expect any changes regarding trees prior to January 2022. Mitch explained that the new Town Administrator needed to work with the Environmental Planner and the Town Engineer to discuss. Discussion ensued about requesting Town department staff have a meeting with Collab Tree Committee members in January to discuss what they’ve come up with. Mitch asked Jake to email his petition to Sue and he asked about Collab volunteers meeting one-on-one with appropriate staff. Jeff King said it would not be a good idea to give Town staff a deadline of a January meeting. There was a question as to what happened to the tree planting planned for this past fall. Sue said she would follow up with the two departments.

Update: Sue spoke to Town Engineer Rob Wasp who reported the following: “The Town’s tree planting program was unfortunately postponed, to resume in spring 2021. Storm damage assessment and reporting work from Hurricane Ida occupied staff resources so that the fall planting list could not be produced on time within the suitable fall planting season. We look forward to resuming a robust planting program in spring 2021.”

Climate Smart Communities

As a reminder, Mitch reported that Town Supervisor Nancy Seligson would like Collabs to help with the Town’s CSC recertification, since we did not maintain our five year CSC certification that expired this past summer. Mitch gave our intern Kat the CSC printout which contains the list of actions to apply for. The deadline to resubmit is January 7, 2022.

Climate Emergency Declaration

The Town declaration, based on the New Rochelle model, was submitted to Nancy and Jeff on September 30th. The TB members were engaged but felt TB’s declaration needed to reflect the Town, not an 80,000 + city like New

Rochelle. TB asked for another draft. Nancy said she'd review prior to getting to TB. There were mixed opinions as to deleting deadlines that certain staff needed to make. Also, it was felt that declarations should be all encompassing so particular demographics are not left out. Collabs should help with how to implement climate plan and advise TB. That should be their "homework," not that of the Town Administrator. Some felt declaration should be much shorter. The TB said the outreach and education to the community should come from the Collaborative. Collab members felt it would be helpful to speak to other committees to get "buy in."

Update: On November 17, the Town adopted the Climate Emergency Declaration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next meeting will be held at the Senior Center "yellow room" location (our new spot) on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

Town of Mamaroneck Sustainability Collaborative

Meeting Notes December 7, 2021

(Meeting Live, Senior Center 6pm – 8pm)

Attendees: Mitch Green, Sue Odierna, Arlene Novich, Mark Kramer, Karen Khor, June Wallach, Michele Lewis, Nick Zuba, Kevin Crowe, Beth Radow, George Roniger, Denise Dunn (by phone), Sebastian Gold, Kat Warwick, Eliza Pertz, George Roniger, and new volunteers Mireille (Miray) Ferrier and Allen Reiter

Notes of October 26 meeting were accepted. (We had two meetings in October, due to the need to reschedule the November meeting.)

Community Health

Climate Smart Communities

Supervisor's intern, Kat updated the group on the priority elements she has been working on for the CSC recertification. The actions she is focusing on are "GHG Inventory" which involves ensuring that all data (electric, gas and oil usage in Town buildings as well as fleet usage (gasoline and diesel) are input and analyzed and "Energy Audit" which involves demonstrating that a minimum of 75% of Town-owned square footage has been (energy) audited. Kat reported she and Denise Dunn are working well together and with the help of some Town resources, they are progressing. Denise reported that she is focusing on the "Climate Change Education and Engagement" action. She has met with June and Karen K. to document the outreach and public education we have done and what the strategy is going forward. Denise and Kat are volunteering their time to the Town twice a week in the afternoons at Town Center. The deadline to resubmit is January 7, 2022.

Update: The Climate Smart Community application was submitted to the DEC on Thursday, January 6th. We expect to hear back by February 25th. Volunteer Denise Dunn and MHS Intern Kat Warwick did an enormous amount of work on this project.

Collab Nick asked why the Town was not pursuing the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Financing. As a reminder, this is financing that permits property owners to pay for upgrades that improve energy efficiency. Discussion ensued about the pros and perceived cons of the Town following through with this. Nick said he'd like to explain to members of the TB why this is actually a positive initiative and that the Town need not be concerned about liability. Mark K. suggested Nick draft up a white paper, brief and with bullet points giving the pros and the perceived cons but showing what the facts are. It was also suggested that Nick attend a TB meeting and address the Board with his reasoning.

Minimize Waste

Repair Café

Mitch thanked the organizers of the Repair Café and the volunteers that assisted. Mitch reported that reaction and feedback were excellent. Michele L. thought it was a great and happy event. Karen noted that the variety of people attending were not the same faces she typically sees at enviro events around town or at the Farmers

Market and that it was great that we attracted new and residents from different and diverse backgrounds. Mark K. mentioned how nice it was to see kids bringing their bikes for repair and that it was good to see kids at a Collab event. George was glad we had the Kids Corner and though it wasn't too busy, it was a great suggestion. Kevin thanked Jimmy, the Town staff member who put the layout, tables and all together and was very helpful and noted how easily cleanup went because participants didn't make a mess! Mitch made comparisons to an event of a few years ago, "Grow it Green" – an event that was superbly organized and took many months with many volunteers meeting. He suggested that as successful as our event was, better and longer organization will make for an even stronger event next year. All seemed to agree that hosting a Repair Café annually would be a good idea and that early in the New Year, a planning committee should begin organizing. Mark K. asked how a resident interested in environmental issues would get on a list to be informed. Sue responded that interested residents who find us through FB often reach out directly through messaging on the FB page, if they find out about us from the website, they can email the "sustainability coordinator" via the sustainability page. Some residents not familiar with the website or FB call the Supervisor's office to inquire and others call the Conservation office and get transferred to us.

2021 Sustainability Collaborative Priorities & Programs

Mitch suggested we review the priorities that were introduced at the start of 2021 to see how we did vs. the goals. Karen reported on Food Scrap Recycling and that it's progressed well, but more work needs to be done to increase number of residents recycling and move to curbside collection. For the "Love your Food" project, Beth/Karen will find out what happens after the three-year grant period is over. They asked if the Collaborative could pay the fee to continue the LYF website after grant is over. Mitch said we should be able to as the "Green App" fees have been included in the Collabs budget. June reported on Healthy Yards saying new content had just been posted to the HY page and that it included three videos. General discussion followed, led by June, on what the "Three Big Topcis" are and the group agreed on Flooding, Heat and Energy. Mitch also mentioned he had heard from Winged Foot member Michael Scanlon regarding new water hazards at the golf club, ponding that has occurred as a result of flooding. He thinks this is a great opportunity for Collbs to work with the club. Discussion on the I95 Beautification project by the Maxwell Avenue/I95 South entrance in Larchmont. Sue was asked what is happening with this. Questions were also asked about the Comprehensive Plan and who is handling since AKRF was let go.

Update 1: The Town Board is exploring the possibility of installing a roundabout at the entrance to I95 and they've asked Barton & Lejudice to review the old plans and determine how to bring them up to date.

Update 2: The Town Board has gone into contract with the PACE Land Use Law Center regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Climate Emergency Declaration

Discussion about creating a steering committee

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Zoom details to be emailed out before January 11, 2022.