

Nyack Sustainability Committee Meeting Notes
February 5 ,2020

Attending: Liz McGrory, Dave Zornow, Kathy Schwarz, Rosemary Farrell, Marcy Denker, Steve Cea, John Furlow with submitted reports by Dana Harkrider and Joel Newton

1. NYACK 2030

- The grant to support Nyack 2030 has been approved and the contract should arrive soon. Set up with Dave and Meg Mayo to move to some decisions regarding priorities.
- Launch to take place in March and the kit will include graphics, logos, and other materials such as a project description, invitation to participate, ideas for talking points for constituents, and ideas for how to approach people to engage them.
- Committee members are needed to engage in direct outreach to partners and potential partners to work directly or identify contacts in key community groups. For example, Tamar and Jeanine have agreed to do so with their temple. Other groups for outreach include: community groups, schools, churches, rotary, businesses, chamber of commerce.
- Schools: John reported that Tom Perry at NHS will help identify teachers or others who may be interested or have ideas about who to contact.
- Marcy has prepared a one-pager to help with this community outreach

2. COMMUNICATION

- Activating community connections
- **Library Update:** Rosemary oversees programming and community engagement and outreach. She noted several existing programs that may fit within the purview of the Nyack 2030 including the seed library, incorporating gardening tools into the lending programs, and the repair café.
 - It may be possible to incorporate the Nyack 2030 logos into the seed exchange to include it under the “umbrella” of relevant actions and activities in Nyack.
 - Kathy Schwarz leads a sustainability discussion and support group has been ongoing at the New City library and something similar could be done at Nyack Library.
 - The library can incorporate logos into relevant materials.
 - Programming at the library is generally done about 6 months in advance so any programs or ideas need to build in this lead-time.
- **Article ideas for Earth Matters**
 - Nyack Public Schools energy performance
 - A good story could be generated by NPS’ energy performance contract that includes installing solar on its buildings, along with other efforts.
 - Zero Waste: RCC kitchen, SUNY New Paltz, Future of composting
 - Rosemary had hoped to do a story on RCC Kitchen and zero waste; Chris may be able to write the story.
 - Marcy noted that SUNY New Paltz may also be an interesting example as they are working within Ulster County’s zero waste initiative.
 - RPLUS: Sonia Cairo, Kathy Gallione (RCYCC), Margy at Lamont have program to go into HS classrooms and engage students to work on land use projects on a real world site. Projects involve sustainable land use planning, transportation, etc. The students compile presentations for mentors and officials who give feedback. This process exposes students to civic processes including land use planning and could be an interesting article. Marcy will ask Sonia.
 - Examples of community organizations -- church, temple, business, etc. -- that are trying to increase energy efficiency.
 - NYPA projects such as solar panels on parking lots.
 - Refrigerants: Marcy is working on this complex issue and may be able to develop a story.
 - Plastics: Joel and Glenn have developed a large body of information on plastics. At the current time it would be useful to have an article on something specific like polystyrene.

3. TRANSPORTATION

- Activating community connections
- **Complete Streets Working Group** Update (Dave)
 - Working group on complete streets met with Ann Marie, Bob Galvin, Jim Politi to work on a speed limit and pilot project on Gedney Street. The approach is derived from Vision Zero, which is working toward zero traffic fatalities for pedestrians and cyclists. They are considering a resolution to lower the speed limit to 25 MPH in the Village and working to put it on the village board agenda.
 - The overall idea is that creating safer streets will encourage people to walk and bike rather than use cars. The bike walk master plan from 2018 includes a number of approaches such as improving sidewalks.
 - The Gedney pilot plan will seek to implement some of the recommendations from the 2018 bike/walk master plan. Gedney includes part of bike route 9 and parts of the street have no sidewalks. The pilot, scheduled for the spring, will introduce traffic calming through proven approaches including making the road narrower, which gets the attention of drivers and reduces speed. Temporary sidewalks will be laid out in front of Rivercrest, West Shore Towers and the Nyack Boat Club. The average speed will be measured before and after the changes are introduced and if it goes well it could be continued and also serve as a test case for implementation in other parts of the Village.

4. SCHOOLS/YOUTH

- **Contacts in each school and PTA**
 - The committee still needs to cultivate contacts in each school and PTA.
- **Update: Meeting with NHS students**
 - The President and VP of the Environmental Club at NHS are working to organize an assembly with a speaker after AP tests in May. They are seeking resources to find speakers and could collaborate with the Youth Environmental Action Coalition in the Hudson Valley and the Sierra Club Canada as a model.
- Marcy will talk to botany students about the HS memorial garden as a pollinator site.
- Joel also provided a written update as he was unable to attend the meeting
 - **SCHOOL PROGRAMS**
 - Joel has been talking to various Nyack district school people in preparation for helping devise waste reduction programs, particularly in the cafeterias. This includes members of the UNES PTA, Tom Perry at the high school, plus hopefully very soon Kerri Scales at the solid waste management authority. Kerri has helped with programs at other schools. Joel is in the process of contacting and coordinating with members of the UNES "Green Team."
 - He has been coordinating with Glenn Sungela in researching programs at different schools, both in our area and around the country. They are also researching questions about complications with recycling and composting, particularly how non-food materials might overwhelm composting systems, and various limitations of recycling, all tending to favor reuse as opposed to recycling or composting. This remains an open question and they hope Kerri can provide some guidance.
 - **LOCAL BUSINESSES**
 - A state-wide polystyrene ban might be in the works, and they are interested in whether Nyack could follow the lead of other locales around the country and abroad to create even broader bans. To this end, they are collecting data on various types of food ware used by local establishments and hope to devise a project where high school students take a full field survey, in advance of making recommendations on alternative materials. He is encouraged that many businesses have voluntarily switched to 'green' alternatives to plastic and foam,

and others are in the process. They are collecting data on products, their costs, availability and other pros and cons.

- In advance of the March effective date of the NY plastic bag ban, they will be getting out the BYOB message, hopefully with the help of students.

5. MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

1. Marcy reported on proposed state legislation on concrete and noted that information is available to craft local recommendations to use ashcrete as standard for sidewalks. Sustainable Warwick has good language available on this effort.

6. NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Trees:** as Shade Structures; tree ordinance; tree sidewalk conflicts
- The tree committee is part of Nyack 2030; trees are considered shade structures.
- **Pollinator Pathway**
 - A Program will be held at the library on April 15 “Unpaving the Way”.
 - Larry Wenner is a meadow restoration landscaper who may work to restore the new UN sheep meadow.

7. GHGI

8. ENERGY

- **Home Energy Efficiency**
 - Village promotion of audits and/or specific products/tech.
 - Home energy efficiency has been slow to get off the ground despite a lot of effort.
 - CCA – notification is likely in April or May.