

Nyack Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2021

Attending: Joel Newton, Marcy Denker, Steve Cea, Janine Reiman, Dave Zornow, Liz McGrory

Discussion

- Suez Case on Transfer of Ownership--Deadline for letters Dec. Many comments include a request for PSC to hold off on a decision and do a feasibility study of public ownership. Marcy has written a letter and other members can get in touch with her for more information.
- Noted: Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick and Congressman Mondaire Jones LoHud op ed: [5 Ideas for Transportation Improvements](#) and [follow-up opinion from Floyd Lapp](#). Dave indicated that ERM's positions expressed here seem to be "car centric" over public transportation.
- Nyack News and Views will be ceasing publication early in 2022. The group thanked Dave Zornow for a wonderful vehicle for sharing local news for so many years. Earth Matters has been so valuable for getting environmental news out, and we should try to figure out how to create and support some way to continue it and take advantage of the mailing list and sponsorship.

Working Group Updates

- **Beyond Leafblowers Working Group**

-Debrief and next steps: Joel reported that the series of talks is finished, and a group of volunteers (task force) will be meeting to discuss next steps with timeline and goals TBD. Joel reported that they want to have constructive conversations with landscapers before doing more political actions (going to board, petition, etc.) A public workshop session prior to a Village Board meeting was suggested. Mayor Hammond and Trustees Lorienzini, Lightfoot-Cooper, and Parker attended a session, and Joe Rand is reportedly generally supportive of the efforts. They're all part of the mailing list. Landscaper Steve Weiss has adopted electric equipment and is selling it at a retail store in W Nyack. He would like to provide a demonstration. Task force will try to work to bring together different factions of landscapers - more "old school" and those using these newer approaches. Will also focus on knowledge creation, e.g. list of vetted eco landscapers, and possibly resources in Spanish and other DEI components.

-The Upper Nyack Green Committee continues to work on outreach on blowers and leaf management and coordination could be useful.

- **Complete Streets Working Group**

- Rockland Shared Streets (RSS), the 501c3 non-profit bike/pedestrian advocacy group that Dave, Rob Panzera, and Paul Kadin have formed, plans to publish a river villages Complete Streets update via email or a new website in 1Q 2022. Marcy suggested inviting the group to make a presentation at a future meeting.

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- Upper Nyack is considering using low embodied carbon concrete for sidewalk work if they get grant funds. It is good to keep the connection between street and sidewalk materials in the discussion about complete streets.

-Steve, Marcy and Kathleen Johnson of the Tree Committee have started to draft a report on the 59 Gateway incorporating observations about opportunities for multi-modal improvements and greening up the area. This report will incorporate relevant parts of the Comp Plan, Bike Walk Plan and be used as a basis for more discussion before sharing with DOT for feedback on areas of potential.

- **Greenhouse Gas Inventory/Climate Action Plan Working Group**

Steve and Marcy have been meeting to work out a template for a Climate Action Plan and proposed aiming to present a draft at a workshop early next year. The idea is to make it engaging and useful in defining gaps and areas where we need more help as well as useful for guiding actions and staying on track. The [Sustainable Nyack Action Plan 2015-2016](#) can provide the basic model for organizing goals and checklists, as well as incorporating relevant actions in The Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities programs. But the presentation should be more lively and colorful like the Dobbs Ferry CAP. The following is an example of how the work of several groups might be organized under an overarching goal.

EXAMPLE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN GOAL

I. CREATE A HEALTHY, SAFE, LOW CARBON LANDSCAPE

The work of the following three groups overlap and they should communicate with each other regularly.

Tree Program

Tree Committee to work regularly with staff, planning board and officials on projects including the South of Main Street grant, Catherine Street Lot tree planting project, implementation of code and development recommendations related to trees in Comp Plan and Green Infrastructure Plan. Develop plans for the use of structural soil in sidewalk projects.

Complete Streets and Parking Lots

Establish a committee across all the interested jurisdictions to review the Phase I recommendations in the Bike and Pedestrian Masterplan. Update for any new concerns, and present those findings to the board, and develop a plan for implementation. Include recommendations for Comprehensive Master Plan especially for the Gateway area. Develop plans for the use of low-embodied carbon concrete in sidewalk projects. Review recommendations in the Streets and Lots section and other relevant parts of the Green Infrastructure Report.

Landscape management

Recruit members to the subcommittee on landscape management. Education and outreach on Love 'Em and Leave 'Em, leaf blowers, organic lawn care, native plants, backyard composting.