

## Nyack Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes     December 10, 2020

Attending: Elizabeth McGrory, Dave Zornow, Steve Cea, Rosemary Farrell, Janine Reiman. Guest: Dave McWilliam, Upper Nyack Green Committee

---

### DISCUSSION

Dave McWilliam, Upper Nyack Green Committee, presented an overview of the effort in Upper Nyack to institute leaf blower regulations because of the human and environmental health and quality of life impacts. The ordinance currently being considered would apply to two-stroke gas powered blowers and leave two short seasons open for the use of blowers--Oct.15-Dec 15; March 15-April 30. The ordinance may also address permissible decibel levels and hours of operation. Upper Nyack invited municipal leaders from communities that have instituted bans, and learned that one the law was in place there was little pushback. Hastings has a law that has been in effect for about 7 years(?) and they are making some adjustments.

The Nyack Sustainability Committee would like to bring this issue to the board again. A seasonal ban on blowers was promoted about six years ago in Nyack, but was voted down. The education/outreach approach that the mayor advocated at the time was minimal and unsustainable.

There was consensus in the group that education about leaf and lawn management alternatives is needed along with regulation.

#### ***Next steps:***

Study these materials from Upper Nyack and prepare to discuss at the meeting in January.

[Powerpoint Presentation](#)--Proposal to Upper Nyack, Oct. 2019

[Compendium](#) of Westchester leaf blower laws

### WORKING GROUP REPORTING

#### **Materials Management**

**Composting** Joel and Marcy gave an update on the group Rockland Composters, which includes members from the five river villages from Haverstraw to Piermont. Their agenda-- to promote and expand backyard composting and help establish a food scrap (drop off or curbside) for those who can't or don't want to backyard compost. The group now has a Facebook page and is working on a broad canvassing effort to gauge interest in a fee-based food scrap drop off program.

## **Transportation**

Dave Zornow reported on the TAP project that had to go back to engineering for significant revisions because the bids came over budget. The revised project plans were on the workshop agenda to be held the same evening as our committee meeting, A small number of merchants have expressed concern about the disruptions to their business. The project will include streetscape improvements to make the Broadway safer and more attractive, with trees, bumpout, rain gardens and new sidewalks..

Note: After our meeting ended, Janine Reinmann attended the board workshop and made the case for using low-embodied carbon concrete. The mayor said that he would take the matter up, and replied to an email about the concrete issue and

## **Energy**

### **Low Embodied Carbon Concrete:**

Marcy reported on the recent webinar called Low Embodied Carbon Concrete Action Seminar for Local Governments and shared a segment of the video where Chris Neidl, the program leader, and Mayor Armacost talked about the rich potential for collaboration among local municipalities to build knowledge on the ground and drive the market for green concrete.

Excellent webinar with practical path for local action--Watch 2 minutes  
The videos and other info can be found here.

Note: After our meeting ended, Janine Reinmann attended the board workshop and made the case for using low-embodied carbon concrete in the TAP project. The mayor said that he would take the matter up.

**Energy Efficiency Program** Steve (who is now a credentialled NYSERDA Energy Navigator) reported that the program on home energy efficiency that he organized at the library went well and will be available for viewing online soon. Rosemary is getting guidance from Steve and NYSERDA on replacing a boiler and using financial incentives that are set to expire soon..

## **Books**

Rosemary, who is librarian at the Nyack Library, shared a list of suggested books relevant to sustainability, for three age groups. Here is [the list](#). Marcy will include one from each category in the next Green News. We can think about ways to share and promote discussion.