

## **Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 3, 2020**

**Attending** Liz McGrory, Dana Harkrider, Steve Cea, Joel Newton, Janine Reiman, Marcy Denker

1. **NYACK 2030 GRANT** The group discussed how to move forward given the loss of momentum and uncertainty about the status of the CSC grant and Marcy's role. Marcy reported that much of the funding budgeted for the grant match will not be available. She has worked out a revised budget and workplan with more volunteer hours in the match and is waiting for the mayor and village administrator to be ready to engage on this issue.

*FOLLOW UP NOTE: The contract does not need to be signed right away, so there is no pressure from the DEC to move quickly.*

2. **NYACK SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE** Discussion of the sustainability committee's focus and effectiveness with or without the grant.
  - Racial/social justice is top of mind because of Covid's impacts on low income communities and workers and because of the BLM demonstrations. The team briefly discussed ways that local climate action relates to this -- diversity in membership and outreach, promoting energy efficiency/cost savings, green jobs.
  - Projects related to natural resource protection and biodiversity are the easiest to get volunteers involved in. But energy and transportation are very important issues that we should work on.
  - Committee has lost membership since last year. Volunteers are more likely to support projects in small ways rather than run committees and do research. Marcy will try to come up with a list of possible projects to focus on.

## **FOLLOW UP NOTES**

### **Six Projects to Focus On**

**1 Composting and food waste:** South Nyack's Climate Smart Committee has several very engaged members who have started to organize on this. They are researching successful food scrap composting programs in Westchester and planning for a long term, multi-faceted project, starting with outreach and education in coordination with Cornell Cooperative Extension. Joel and Marcy from the Nyack Sustainability Committee will be involved. Please contact Marcy if you are interested in working on this.

## **2 Energy Navigators**

**NYSERDA** has a program to train local volunteers as “Energy Navigators” who can help residents learn about energy efficiency and alternative energy programs and take advantage of them in their homes. A series of online lessons followed by is required, and then 50 hours of volunteer hours over the course of their service period. Steve is planning to sign up. Marcy is considering it. Contact Marcy if you are interested.

## **3 Concrete**

Marcy was working on a draft policy for the Village on the use of alternative, lower carbon concrete before the shut down, and is in discussions with a regional advocate for these types of policies. The Village of Hastings has adopted a policy on this, and a [webinar covering the Hastings low carbon concrete resolution has been scheduled for June 30](#). Registration is open. It will be a good intro to the climate-concrete connection, the resolution and the kind of local policies that can flow from it. Please contact Marcy if you are interested in working on this.

**4 Leaf Blowers** Upper Nyack’s Green Committee researched the topic of leaf blower restrictions and presented a case for them to the mayor and board in Upper Nyack. Then with the virus and stay at home orders, a moratorium on the use of gas powered blowers was instituted. The Nyack Sustainability Committee can coordinate with others who are working on this. Is anyone interested in doing that?

## **5 Transportation**

Dave Zornow leads the Transportation Committee, and we need an update on the current to-do list from him.

## **6 Pollinator Pathway**

Dana Harkrider and Lorien Barlow run the Pollinator Pathway project and may need volunteers.