

**Meeting Agenda**  
**Village of Mamaroneck**  
**Committee for the Environment**  
**January 20, 2025, at 7:30 pm**  
**Courtroom, 169 Pleasant Ave. Mamaroneck, NY**

Open meeting & approve minutes of December 16, 2025, meeting. (7:30 - 7:35 pm)

Welcome to new member Angelina Jacob. (7:35 – 7:40 pm)

Set date for Feb meeting given school break (7:40 – 7:45 pm)

**Recent & Upcoming Events (7:45 – 8:10 pm)**

- **Winter Seed Sowing Workshop** – Recap, follow-up (Alli, Lindsay, Debbie, Kate, Tadej)
- **How to Have a Healthy Yard, Panel with Q & A**, Mam’k Library, Sat. Feb 28, 11- noon, presenters needed, (Kate)
- **Spring Clean & Green**, April 18, 9:30-noon, Harbor Is. Park meetup—compost, flyer, publicity & team.
- **Native Plant Swap & Giveaway**, Sat May 9, 11-1pm, Poetry Garden—need flyer, publicity & team
- **Nostrand-Howard Riverside Park Ribbon Cutting**, Wed May 27, 4-5pm. (Kate)

**Ongoing Activities & Initiatives (8:10 – 9 pm)**

- **Food Scraps Grant & Program**– Letter to VM re DEC grant--next steps, strengthen program (Nora, Alli, Kate)
- **LMC Media show** – 2<sup>nd</sup> program on “Winter Seed Sowing” to be shot on Jan 23. Future topics – Food Scraps Recycling program? Universal Solar Permit? YouTube channel needed for distribution (Kate, Tadej)
- **Mamaroneck Greenway** – Update on grants, Girl Scouts, volunteers, community outreach (Kate, Nora)
- **Harbor Island Living Shoreline area**– Info to VM for Master Plan, Redoing signs & new planting (Kate)
- **Maintenance of CFTE gardens** – Feedback on Adopt-a-Garden concept update (Bob, Julie, Kate)
- **Signage** – for Greenway & gardens--Information on individual plants, ecological benefits of native plants. (Kate, team)
- **Community Garden** – need CFTE member to manage existing garden (Team)
- **CSC Taskforce** – updates (David, Matt)
- **Residential Solar** – update, next steps (David)
- **CEC Grants** – (Debbie)
- **Improving CFTE communications & messaging** – Village website redesign with cleanup of CFTE section needed (Kate); Instagram, Facebook, YouTube (Tadej, Lindsay); Countywide networking (Bob); Tri-Muni communications & Evite for meetup on Feb 2 (Kate, Julie)

**Other Items (9:10-9:30pm)**

- **Westchester Coalition for Clean Water** – Recap of Jan 13 meeting, future action (Debbie, Kate)
- **County-level leaf blower legislation** - Request for BOT Resolution of Support (Nora, Kate)
- **Mayors Monarch Pledge** – status (Kate, Lindsay)
- **Taylor Lane** – (Matt, David)
- **Tree Committee** – Soft landings to protect tree trunks from damage (Kate)
- **Mosquito Control in village** – Follow-up on Resolution sent to BOT in October. Action (Kate, Nora)
- **Plastic Pollution** – Pending NYS law mentioned by Steve Otis, CFTE/BOT support letter (Nora, Kate)

Public Comment: At the end of each meeting, 3-minute per person unless otherwise permitted.

**Close Meeting**

**Village of Mamaroneck**  
**The Committee for the Environment**

**Draft of Minutes from December 16, 2025**  
**Courtroom, 169 Pleasant Ave. Mamaroneck, NY 10543**

Members Present: Katherine Dehais (Chair), Debbie Sullivan, David Freeman, Robert Heiss, Allison May, Kristen Carpenter, Tadej Znidarcic, Trustee Liaison Nora Lucas, Absent: Matt Ahrens, Julie Rubin, Lindsay Reitzes. Guests: Ryan Block, Hudson Berger & Ian Rubin from Mamaroneck High School's OCRA program.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. Minutes of the meeting on November 18, 2025, were approved.

**Welcome & Introductions:**

New members Kristen Carpenter and Tadej Znidarcic as well as new Trustee Liaison Nora Lucas were introduced. The entire Board took a few minutes to introduce themselves.

**New Items and Initiatives**

**Residential Solar:**

The Committee discussed improvements to the residential solar permitting process with a presentation from student members of the OCRA program on the New York State Unified Solar Permit (USP). The students explained the permit's benefits in streamlining paperwork, standardizing applications, reducing costs, expediting reviews, and enabling access to clean energy incentives.

Action steps from the Committee's discussion on Residential Solar and the Unified Solar Permit include: coordinating public outreach and awareness about the USP after adoption, providing USP presentation materials and documents to the village/building department and leaving copies for staff review, scheduling and presenting the USP at an upcoming village work session and confirming availability with staff, researching and reporting on the typical kilowatt output corresponding to 20 panels and typical wattage per panel for Committee explanation at the January work session, and endorsing the adoption of the NYS Unified Solar Permit with a request for the village board to place it on an upcoming agenda for consideration as a local law modeled after neighboring municipalities. There was a resolution to support the USP which passed unanimously.

**Educational Programming for Winter/Spring**

The Committee reviewed upcoming educational programming for the winter and spring, confirming that a Winter Seed Sowing Workshop would take place at the Mamaroneck Library on January 10 from 1-2:30 pm with Mary-Elizabeth Shaub as the primary presenter, and that seeds for the event had been ordered. Actions include revising and circulating the event flyer and coordinating volunteers for the Workshop, with Kate responsible for those. She asked members to continue collecting translucent, gallon-sized milk jugs and will reach out to volunteers to prepare them, and work with Mary-Elizabeth on Workshop handouts.

Regarding other winter/spring programming, Kate will also confirm a date for a Healthy Yards Educational Panel with the Library, coordinating with speakers and partners, and report back to the Committee with proposed dates and topics for the event. The Committee also discussed April 18 as a best date for the Spring Clean & Green Cleanup with Harbor Island Park as meetup location and April 19 as rain date. May 9 was agreed as the best date for the Native Plant Swap and Giveaway to be at the Poetry Garden. Kate will write Jeff and Jason to confirm the above dates with Parks.

**Update on Recent Activities & Ongoing Initiatives**

**Food Scraps Program:**

The Committee received an update from Alli on the status of the DEC grant awarded for the Food Scraps Recycling Program, which includes funding for designing a recycling shed at the DPW yard and funds for bilingual outreach and communications efforts. The grant has a 25% match requirement, which can be met through staff and volunteer contributions. Action steps include sending the DEC food-scraps grant notification

and budget details to the Village Manager with Allison May responsible for this task. Nora and Committee members will follow up with Village staff to determine next steps for executing the grant.

### **Community Gardens:**

The Committee discussed the status of the community garden project, and that although BOT approval and initial planning had taken place, further action is now paused until a Harbor Island master plan is completed.

### **Maintenance of CFTE Gardens:**

The Committee discussed the ongoing maintenance of CFTE Gardens, noting challenges in sustaining upkeep as CFTE membership and volunteer support fluctuates. Members may need to evaluate the feasibility of creating a 501(c)(3) entity to raise and manage funds. The idea of an adopt-a-park model was considered to involve community sponsors in supporting specific sites. Kate will follow up with Laura Vasami from the October meeting on regarding a process collect sponsorship money and administer the funds to contractors. Kate and Julie will also put together an inventory of gardens to be included and an estimate of yearly maintenance costs.

### **Mamaroneck Greenway:**

The Committee discussed ongoing efforts related to the Mamaroneck Greenway, including a recent Long Island Sound Partnership panel event where Kate was a speaker on the Phase 1 grant with Assemblage, now complete. Kate hopes to apply for a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding with them for the lower Greenway in coordination with downtown revitalization initiatives subject to BOT support as well as up to \$3.5mm available from a DEC Open Space grant to acquire flood plain space to protect it and make it available for flood mitigation via Greenway Coordinating and communicating with the Village Manager and staff to ensure the Greenway vision is integrated with broader downtown revitalization and flood mitigation initiatives is paramount. Committee members also plan to present information about the Greenway to various local boards and community groups to build support and seek input as planning progresses..

### **CSC Taskforce:**

The Committee received an update on the CSC Task Force, noting the recent loss of several members and the urgent need for new appointments to maintain the group's effectiveness and meet program requirements. The discussion included discussion included an agreement by Kristen to join the Task Force and reconfirmed the Committee's commitment to continuing climate smart initiatives despite recent turnover.

### **Sustainable Westchester:**

The Committee discussed the recent exchange of communications with Sustainable Westchester relating to the termination of the Westchester Power Program. It was agreed that the next step would be to await the promised follow-up from Sustainable Westchester regarding development of an opt-in program for Village residents wishing to purchase "greener" power than is being offered by Con Edison.

### **Improving CFTE Communications & Messaging:**

The Committee reviewed ongoing efforts to improve its communications and public outreach, with updates to the Committee website a current priority, including adding content on mosquito control, leaving leaves and other environmental information and resources as well as coordinating with Simon Skolnik of NYSACC.

### **LMC Media Show:**

The Committee will continue using the LMC Media channel as part of its public outreach strategy, with suggestions to create a program highlighting new initiatives such as the Unified Solar Permit. Members viewed the media show, "The Green Way" as an effective way to inform and engage the community about ongoing Committee efforts and upcoming events. A first program on "Leave the Leaves" was taped at the end of November with Kate moderating a conversation with Emily Sullivan who wrote an article on the topic for Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon. That is available on the LMC Media website and has been broadcast.

## **Other Items:**

### **Westchester Coalition for Clean Water:**

Kate mentioned that Westchester Coalition for Clean Water has asked CFTE to become a member which will have to be determined by the Village board. Kate will attend their Jan 13 meeting and report.

### **Limiting Leaf Blowers:**

Kate mentioned an initiative lead by Bedford Healthy Yards seeking support for County-level legislation to ban gas leaf blowers during summer months. The Committee felt that having consistency across the County could help with compliance of Mamaroneck's law.

### **Tree Committee:**

The Committee discussed the Tree Committee's idea to plant native ground covers around newly installed trees to help prevent mowing damage and support pollinators by creating a "soft landing." The Committee needs to follow up on this idea to see whether Trees has discussed it with Parks as a first step.

### **Mosquito Control in Village:**

The Committee discussed past and future mosquito control efforts in the Village, noting the discontinuation of a previously budgeted larvicide program and the resulting rise in the use of harmful chemical foggers by landscapers and residents. Concern was expressed about the environmental and health impacts of these foggers. The Committee reported that it passed a resolution in September asking the BOT to reinstate the larvicide program and plans to improve public education about safe mosquito control methods, including updating their website and increasing outreach to inform residents of environmentally responsible options. The Committee again requested that funding for the larvicide program be included in next year's Village budget.

### **Need One Additional Member:**

The Committee the vacancy and need to appoint one additional member to restore the group's full capacity.

### **Save the Sound:**

Debbie and Kate attended Save the Sound's opening of the Alexander Center for Ecological Action which is managing ecological restoration and climate resiliency projects.

### **Plastic Pollution:**

The Committee discussed supporting upcoming state legislation to reduce plastic use, encouraging the BOT to adopt a formal endorsement of the bill, and continuing CFTE advocacy and outreach to raise awareness about the need for local and statewide plastic reduction measures.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Heiss