

SHEAC / CSC Meeting 1.9.23

Start Time 7:05pm

1. Introductions:

Anne White – SHEAC Co-Chair
Judi Knispel – CSC, joining SHEAC
Deb Wood – lives at Kendal
Sarah Smiley - CSC Co-Chair
Dave Avrin – SHEAC Co-Chair
Ursula Hahn – Kendal resident
Gina Carey
Maya Mendez, along with her mom – sophomore at SHHS
Susanne Jones – Peabody volunteer, on board of Friends of Peabody
Carol Vinzant – Webber Park, Peabody board
Bill Batson – Communications Consultant for SH (zoom)
Stephanie Smart – considering volunteer activities (zoom)
Francois Rjelli – SHEAC (zoom)
Narenda Reddy (zoom)
Dan Convissor – CSC, Bike Tarrytown (zoom)
Kirsten Hase-McLaughlin - CSC Co-Chair (zoom)

2. SHEAC Updates & Next Steps

- Background: SHEAC is a standing committee that advises Board of Trustees; CSC Task Force – works on actions that accrue points in NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation certification program
- 1st Goal: Recruit new SHEAC members
 - Judi Knispel
 - Kirsten (Kiko) Bourne
 - Looking for 2-3 additional members
 - incl. one high school student – Mayor and Superintendent thinks it's best to have 2 HS students, a senior and a junior to keep continuity
 - someone interested in trees b/c new tree ordinance requires that 2 SHEAC members serve on tree commission
- Communications
 - Great meeting with Bill Batson, Kiko, Judi
 - Want to revise the website, make it more user friendly
 - Judi working on FB page
 - Gina working on Instagram
 - Anne met one-on-one with Kiko – helpful in strategizing

3. Sign-on Letter request: Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions

- Letter asks Westchester Board of Supervisors to hire consultant to study how to shut down incinerator and figure out how to dispose of waste
- Inclined to pass letter on to BOT to ask them to sign
- Zoom meeting from WAAS on Wednesday 1/11 at 7:30pm, sign up if interested

4. CSC Updates

- Food scraps Program
 - State grant to promote composting
 - Tabling at community events
 - 5 residents at Kendal are collecting food scraps, Anne is bringing the scraps to the drop off sites.
 - Maya lives in a Tarrytown apartment, tried composting but it was not really feasible. Wants to know if her apt can have a separate bin apart from trash.
 - Discussed possibility of more drop-off sites. Maybe shift some from either Beekman or Continental?
 - Anne & Deb were at an event at the senior center, but there was no place to put food scraps inside. Maybe they can put a bin there?
 - We will have data available on a monthly basis but on a delay because County calculates weight and sends info to Village
 - Curbside pick up is the ultimate goal (swap out one garbage pick up day for food scrap pick up); also hoping to have our own local compost site
 - Anne – had requests from residents at Edge-on-Hudson.
 - Pilot program participation might not reflect how many people are interested - more would do it if it's more accessible
- GHG Inventories – Sarah and Char worked on reports, which provide baselines for reducing emissions; will be the jumping off point for the Climate Action Plan. Reports will be on the village website soon. Village issuing RFP to hire consultant to lead CAP process - will lead to more actions that earn CSC points.
- BOT Resolutions: food scrap sites, LED streetlight conversion, heat pumps at new DPW, solar at DPW
- Pending BOT approval: Green Purchasing Policy (office supplies, construction material, etc.) and Energy Benchmarking policy. The state released its own template of a green purchasing policy, will send that to BOT for consideration
- CEC Grants - 2 grants, \$5k each. Ideas that have been discussed include:
 - Electric landscaping equipment
 - Mini grants for local businesses - sustainable take out containers, induction stoves
 - Electric cargo bike for DPW
 - Open to further discussion
- Fleet Efficiency Policy - Judi
 - Phase out/reduce Village vehicles that use fossil fuels
 - At time of vehicle replacement, purchase electric replacements

- Gina: Repair Café April 15th at Neighborhood House, co-sponsor with TEAC, we will distro marketing material. Fixers travel the state to serve at these events, but we also want to recruit volunteers locally.

5. Organization of SHEAC/CSC

- Develop a calendar of events – should build our own calendar of events where we want to be represented. Ex: CSC member talking at Kendal, talking at C2 meeting. Food scraps should be a main focus. There might be unlikely partners – Chamber of Commerce representative was interested
 - Should our meetings be on Communitycalendar10591?
- Sub-committees that work between meetings
 - Communications
- Should we work in small groups, or individuals work on different things?
 - think of areas of focus; communications in itself is a big deal
 - depends on initiative, a policy can be one or two people, but other topics might be broader (complete streets)
- Other initiatives:
 - Complete Streets – small group working on 3 intersections, how do we add longer term goals?
 - Tree commission is a real urgency. SHEAC should invite the tree officer to attend a meeting and give a presentation. Gina – put a blurb in the next newsletter. Dan – village did tree inventory a year ago.
 - Community Garden - Diana Loja is going to set one up.
 - Pollinator Gardens - SHEAC can help consolidate efforts, there is no one group organizing it. Peabody is doing a vine-cutting in March, would be great to get a wider audience for that through SHEAC.
- Create a chart to show what SHEAC/CSC is working on
- Communications
 - Take photos at events
 - Would love to add videos to website
 - Bill - collecting archives of photos. Will create a shared folder for photos.
 - Include descriptions of activities on website
 - Send out info through neighborhood associations
 - Kiko updating the website, working with Dan to fix some issues with it. Then link it to FB and instagram accounts.

6. Discussed idea of food scrap recycling in the schools - Maya

- Promote the idea, get parents to start doing it
- Maya is in SPEAR (environmental club)
- Anne hoping to get info from Superintendent
- Add compost bins with signs; educate beforehand
- Susanne - some schools have “Recycling Rangers” program, but need a teacher to lead it

- Maybe a week long pilot program, see if Village would pick up the food scraps; weigh how much food scraps there are
- Find students who would want to do a video about it
- Dave - perhaps use CEC grant money to pay for pick up for pilot program?
- Discussed plastic recycling in Westchester - they are carefully sorted and sold; Ursula - Kendal uses private haulers, have been told that only cardboard is sold.

7. New Business

- Riversweep - Dave
 - May 6, 2023
 - Last year we did Devries Park; Judi and Char did Horan's Landing (they will will do that location again this year)
 - Dave will be out of town for it this year; need help executing it
 - Sometimes this event gets mixed up with Earth Day
 - Add this to the event calendar to discuss at the next meeting. Gina is creating a google doc.
 - Arbor Day? Village does something, but usually doesn't involve SHEAC.
 - Bill will bring info to the next meeting about Earth Day and Arbor Day.
- Anne - working on coordinating with TEAC; proposal to table at TASH once a month