

# Rye Sustainability Committee Minutes

March 3, 2021 / 9:30 AM / By Zoom

## Attendees

PRESENT:

Patti Capparelli, Chair (PC)

Suzanne Clary (SC)

Gretchen Kaye Crowley (GKC)

Pamela Haas (PH)

Amy Kesavan (AK)

Judi Linton (JL)

Linda MacKay (LM)

James Ward (JW)

ABSENT:

Chris Cohan (CC)

Sara Goddard (SG)

## Guest

George Latimer, Westchester County Executive

**Agenda** ([March 3, 2021 agenda](#))

## Minutes

The Committee convened at 9:30 A.M. and began with some words from George Latimer about the Sustainable Westchester meeting scheduled for April 1 and also encouraging the committee to contact Peter McCartt for backing and to act as 'middle man' on keeping the Playland Parkway as a no-mow area. Mr. Latimer invited anyone to contact him with issues or questions at [latimergeorge@gmail.com](mailto:latimergeorge@gmail.com). The March 4 Clean Energy meeting was briefly discussed, and it was noted that the Rye Moms group has been airing a number of complaints about electric bills, so with 40 signups already, there may be extra interest in this webinar.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by unanimous agreement.

**Clean Energy Committee:** JW is taking this on and LM is getting everyone up to speed. Points mean dollars for Rye City, which can be used toward the Food Scraps program, she is meeting with other Rye Town folks regarding this effort, and a Google Group is being created. LM is meeting with Carla Castillo about grants, and some potential opportunities were discussed. Points will be clarified on March 16. PC asked about whether Energy Smart Homes were eligible for rebates, and LM believes yes.

**Food Scrap Recycling:** LM provided an FSR update. With 15 actions needing to be taken, she said a meeting is needed to set priorities. She has been researching options to the current curbside pickup bins, since the existing ones preclude setting out the night before and that prevents 100% participation. One in particular has a screw-on top, which would prevent loss and animal disturbance. JW questioned the need for history keeping during pickups. JL is waiting to hear from the RHS environment club about their possible involvement; they are polling parents and exploring possible RCDS and Holy Child connections as well. The Hastings Compost Cycle project was discussed, and GKC pointed out that paying minors to do DPW work would decrease the emphasis on community service, which would be a negative.

PC said we need data on tonnage; LM asked for that information again this week.

PC has been researching commercial composters; met with Arthur Henderson regarding Eco-rich's models. LM is hoping to have a compost giveback day; PC suggested that it could be similar to Mamaroneck's. The City pays about \$1500 plus shipping, and it could come from the curbside program.

**Invasive Vine Removal Event:** PC is finalizing the PDF flyer today; discussion followed about stretching out our posts to media for best coverage, and notices will be sent to the City Council, George Latimer, Steve Otis, and Catherine Parker. The event needs to exclude those under 10 years of age.

**Tree Ordinance:** City Council is reviewing. Problem of far more tree removals than replantings was discussed. CC has a list for a shade tree plan, and PC will help him work with the City on this.

The City is now planting native trees only; there's a fund but information about costs has not been obtained yet; no City response. JL says one donation opportunity has come up, and they need to know how much.

**Pollinator Pathway:** PC spoke with Christine Siller at the Rye Nature Center regarding the area across from Jerry's, and the Nature Center has a seed bank. We expect high school students to help, and they can plant monoculture gardens. PC will meet with the RNC Conservation Director at the site, and Lions Club and Garden Club may sponsor.

SD mentioned a concern about an 1801 historic mile marker being in the path of those plantings, and a discussion ensued about ways to preserve the marker and perhaps even protect it through plant placement and height considerations. What kind of garden was discussed and whether it should be the same plants throughout the line or in patches, wall to curb, etc. Also discussed was whose property it was, and who should maintain it (RSC should be assumed will be responsible, with Rye Nature Center interns for now). Questions were raised about initial watering and

keeping pedestrians off while the garden was establishing itself. PC invited SD to meet with her and the RNC Conservation Director to finalize details.

**Green Screen Event:** GKC said that the documentary panel event has been confirmed for Earth Day April 22 at 7:00 pm. All three panelists have been lined up. Mike from Mike's Organics in Stamford will show a video. GKC will serve as moderator, and registration will provide movie preview at login. Save the Date will go out mid-March, and invitation at the end of March.

SD wondered whether we can promote the Rye CSA at this event, and GKC suggested that could happen during the Q&A.

**April 17 Cleanup:** Reported on by JW and JL; all is on target.

**Greenhouse Gas & Energy Inventory:** JW has renewed our membership, and all 2009 emissions in the app will get a number. But not all 2009 on the community side because there are no records; he needs a 2009 baseline. He has gotten numbers from annual reports to play with, e.g. waste removal data. But he would like to get information about emissions for our fleet, and has asked Noga a few times for information such as receipts, with no information obtained yet.

GKC wondered whether JW could go directly to the source for the data, instead of through City Hall middlemen/women.

**Pollinator Pathway:** SD reported on Rye Town Park plans. Hives will be installed in the park, and an interview is coming to Rye TV about that.

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 am.**