

Ossining Green Committee Meeting Notes Wednesday, January 19th, 2011 - 7:30pm

Attendees:

Cynthia Bardwell, Ossining UFSD Green Team
John Bell
Dorian Burden, Chair, Village EAC
Tom Earle, Commodore, Ossining Boast & Canoe Club
Andrea Kimmich-Keyser
James Rather, Assistant Planner, Village of Ossining
Suzie Ross
Peter Tripodi, Town of Ossining Council

The meeting began at 7:30pm.

Ossining Community Climate Action Plan – Review of Plan & Next Steps

- The Committee began the meeting by discussing their overall thoughts on the Plan. James Rather notified Committee members that he will be conducting edits on the document over the next two weeks based on the Committee's comments, and he will then be handing off the document to the Committee once this is complete. This will be his final meeting with the Green Committee for the foreseeable future, as the document is nearly complete. Specific comments on the document included:
 - Plan should have a 'priority list' for the measures to show the order in which the Green Committee plans to take on the various initiatives.
 - Document should specify a designated emissions reduction target percentage and target year, such as Bedford's goal of 20% reduction by 2020.
 - Parts of the Introduction section should be reformatted to help convey to the reader what the document contains, similar to an executive summary.
 - It should have additional information on simple things residents can do to make a difference near the beginning of the document and help draw the reader in. This could be done in the form of text boxes containing 'Action Tips'.

- Additional information on the steps that the Village, Town, and School District have taken and plan to take to promote environmental initiatives and help fight climate change should be included.
- Additional graphics should be added to document, including pie charts to first page of each of the sector measures, a table comparing Ossining emissions to County emissions within the Greenhouse Gas Inventory section of the document, and additional photos.
- Information on the school district's Green Team should be added to the document where applicable, and the schools should be mentioned as a source of outreach within the measures.

Mr. Rather discussed the project's timeline and stated that the first two comments would require additional Committee meetings and discussion in order to determine the order of the priority list and the emissions reduction targets. Given the two-week timeframe, the comments regarding Action Tips, formatting, graphics, government & school district efforts, and the school district Green Team will be addressed within the next draft, and the remaining issues will be addressed by the Green Committee, who will have access to the MS Word and Adobe InDesign files to make additional document edits.

The group came to a consensus that additional outreach should take place to help tweak the document following Mr. Rather's edits and that the Committee should take steps to ensure that there is maximum community buy-in for the measures. Mr. Tripodi also emphasized the importance of buy-in from the business community and that Chamber members should provide input on the measures that involve local businesses. Committee members discussed holding a second Green Café event in the spring to obtain additional input on each of the sectors, with breakout groups held on each sector. The breakout group participants could potentially form the basis for the subcommittees that will carry out each of the measures. The goal is to have the document finalized as soon as possible so that the Committee can begin work on the Plan's initiatives.

Earth Day Event Planning & Next Meeting

- The Green Committee plans to focus on the planning for the Earth Day event at its next meeting, tentatively scheduled for mid-February. The exact date is to be decided.

The meeting concluded at 9:03pm.