

NOTES FROM THE MAY 2, 2012 CIT MEETING

ATTENDING: Stewart Glenn, Vici Danskin, Ruth Elwell, David Shepler (EnCC), Richard Heyl de Ortiz, Joan Tenuto, Erica Wagner.

FOOD NOT LAWNS: David Shapler spoke this morning to introduce a developing proposition to turn the grounds around Village Hall into a Vegetable and Flower Garden to demonstrate a greener use of residential property to encourage people to use their lawns to grow food and to reduce their carbon footprint. Mr. Shapler explained that the project was modeled after a community in Oregon. The plan is to plant using a 1,000 dollar budget from the Village. NP Youth program volunteers would work in the garden once a week. The New Paltz Garden Club leaders expressed an interest in participation, though no club approval was given. The initial planting will be done by the DPW

CIT members expressed many concerns about this proposal. The plantings shown in the drawings were inappropriate for the site and should be reexamined by someone who has gardening knowledge. The space would only be attractive for a short period of time. Maintenance would be needed every day and volunteers who were knowledgeable might be scarce in our community. Vandalism is a distinct possibility. The question was raised also why small trees were not being used to reduce CO2 if that is one of the objectives. Would new codes have to be written to allow community members to use their front lawns for vegetable gardens?

One suggestion was that the group interested in this project might do a small raised bed where some vegetables might be grown in a sunny location to demonstrate to the community an effective way to grow their own vegetables and reduce lawn space.

CLEAN SWEEP: Clean Sweep was a great success. The exact number attending is not yet available. The day ran very smoothly thanks to the efforts of CIT, the Chamber of Commerce and SUNY New Paltz. Some discussion centered finding a larger space for next year to kick off the day. Erica suggested we look into the Multipurpose Room at SUNY. There is more space(the room holds over 500 people), more bathrooms and since over 150 students are involved in the day it makes sense to consider this as a starting point. There is the problem of the fee for the use of tables and chairs, but perhaps the college President could do something to waive the cost for a community volunteer event.

THE NEXT CIT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT VILLAGE HALL ON JUNE 6TH AT 8 am.