

## **Ardsley Pollinator Pathway Meeting Minutes 2024-05-07**

**Present:**, Ruchi Agarwal, Linda Caldwell, Steve Edelstein, Kathy Evers, Julie Larkin, Jen Nordhem, Dina Parerson, Carol Sommerfield (minutes)

**Regrets:** Rececca Arkin, Savannah Donahue

### **Creating Habitat:**

- New pollinator gardens at Hart's Brook Park and Preserve
  - New gardens were installed on May 3 & 4 with a great group of volunteers.
- Ardsley Community Garden Update: Linda and Carol
  - The APP survey as well as the Ardsley Parks Survey did not show enough committed interest in a community garden at this time. However, Jodi Reaver indicated that she was very interested in pursuing a community garden. Linda and Ruchi will work with Jodi to see if they can generate enough committed interest and also develop a management team willing to implement and manage the garden over a number of years.
    - **Actions:**
      - Linda and Ruchi to meet with Jodi to craft the next steps and gather enough committed interest to the project.
- Greenburgh Library tree and shrub sapling giveaway - update: Carol & Kathy
  - It was a very successful event. Almost all of the 250 saplings and tree protector tubes were distributed.
- Update on 2024 native plug pre-orders: Carol
  - The plugs are arriving and the first pickup has been announced.
- Potential pollinator garden at Macy Park: Steve and Carol
  - We still have unresolved issues about challenges at the site (e.g. watering of the plants, DPW help, who will maintain the garden). Westchester Parks still needs to approve the project. Steve reached out to meet with them but we haven't heard back.
    - **Action:** Plan for sheet mulching in the fall and planting as part of an Earth Day activity in the spring. Carol will work on getting a grant for the plants from Bronx River/Sound Shore Audubon.

### **Education/Awareness**

- No more events/programs will be held until later fall. The main focus now is on maintaining the public pollinator gardens.

### **Partnerships - new:**

- No update

### **Policy**

- Carol met with the mayor, village manager and Steve (our trustee liaison) last week to review in detail the native plant planting code for new construction, the leaf blower law updates, and the proposed tree code. The group was immensely supportive of creating modernized and effective codes. All codes were reviewed in detail and we were only able to get through half of the tree code, the most dense and complex code. Another meeting will be held to continue the detailed review of the tree code. There is a lot of work required to create the support materials to implement these codes (e.g. suggested native plant lists, recommended trees and shrubs, invasive species lists, user friendly how-to material to navigate the codes)

### **Other topics/updates**

- Steve provided an update on new construction projects. Steve asked Carol a few weeks ago to comment on the planting plan for the new gas station which resulted in recommended substitutions for non-native grasses and inclusion of native easy perennials. A new construction project near Macy Park may also request assistance with plantings of natives in the landscape plan.
- Rehabilitation of the 'meadow' below Pascone Park is planned. Currently it has been taken over by invasive plants.

**Next meeting, Fall, 2024. TBD date and time.**