

Minutes to the Village of Ardsley Conservation and Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), 12/2/21, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Attendees: Asha Bencosme, Mayor Nancy Kaboolian, Eda Kapsis (facilitator), Lorraine Kuhn, Dave Lew, Carol Sommerfield (minutes)

1. Opening

Eda opened the meeting at 7:04 pm and Carol provided the opening inspiration:

"We don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." Native American Proverb

2. Upcoming Events and Updated Strategic Goals - Carol/Asha

- **Social Event/Seed Swap on Saturday, December 11, 11 am - 1 pm** at 23 Orlando Avenue. Rain/Snow date: Sunday, December 12. More information can be found at www.ardsleypollinatorpathway.org.
- **January Ardsley Pollinator Pathway Get Together**, featuring a presentation and reference materials on birdscaping your yard. January 12, 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm via Zoom. [Registration required](#).
- **The Sacrifice Zone film screening and discussion**, Thursday, January 13 via Zoom. More information to be posted on www.ardsleycan.org shortly. The CEAC is partnering with the Ardsley Multicultural, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Ardsley High School Environmental Task force to produce this event that highlights the issue of environmental social justice and the human cost of waste. Asha is working with the AHS students on the facilitation of the discussion after the film
- The CEAC recently reviewed their strategic plan and goals for the 2021/2022 fiscal year and [made adjustments to the plan](#) to reflect new opportunities. Added to the strategic goals for 2021/2022:
 - Potential hosting of a Rivertowns Repair Cafe in the fall of 2022
 - Focus on environmental social justice and partner with the MDIC and AHS ETF on an environmental social justice event.
 - Advocate for the renewal of the Community Choice Aggregation agreement.
 - Partner with Sustainable Westchester and, if feasible, adjacent communities to run an EnergySmart HOMES and/or Solar campaign.
 - Educate residents about common recycling misconceptions and errors. Partner with the DPW to understand common errors and where education is needed.
 - Promote food scrap diversion and the feasibility of eventual curbside pickup.

- Rebrand the CEAC and its efforts under the ***Ardsley CAN by 2030!*** umbrella.
- The committee has worked to ensure that there are events and communication each month under the ***Ardsley CAN by 2030!*** brand to consistently engage with and provide useful information to residents. The [preliminary communication/outreach plan](#) was developed and is being executed. Numerous channels will be used for communication, including Ardsley Connects.
- The committee is recommending that the Village consider undertaking a Natural Resources Inventory/Open Space Inventory at this time. Two factors make this a higher priority than it was several months ago: the Village's plan to rezone to support the Comprehensive Plan and the dire effect of Hurricane Ida in September, which highlighted the need for climate adaptation plans in the Village, including green infrastructure mitigation. The committee recommends that the work be spearheaded by a consultant/consulting firm expert in this area. The plan should not just be historical, but focused on prioritization, recommendations and action. The committee sees this as a perfect next step after the Comprehensive Plan to inform the desired changes as we move ahead. DEC and other grants are available to offset the work. The committee found the [Pound Ridge Natural Resources Inventory](#) to be an excellent example of a plan that incorporates climate adaptation and a water inventory as part of the report and recommendation.

3. Update Naming and Communications to Simplify Outreach and Effectiveness - Eda

- The committee believes that the terms conservation and environment are outdated, uninformative/ambiguous, hard to remember, and easily jumbled. With a goal to clarify and focus brand, improve understanding of mission, and better describe the activities of the committee the CEAC is requesting that their name be changed from Conservation Environment Advisory Committee to the Climate Advisory Committee (CAC). The announcement for the change will be made by Mayor Kaboolian at the December 6 Annual Reorganization Meeting.
- The community outreach and communication will fall under the ***Ardsley CAN by 2030!*** brand which includes the Pollinator Pathway and Environmental Social Justice subcommittees. The committee has changed email and other social media channels to reflect the Ardsley CAN name.
- A Facebook page for Ardsley CAN is being launched.

4. EnergySmart HOMES Campaign - Asha

- To further the mission of ***Ardsley CAN by 2030!*** and to assist homeowners navigate the rising costs of home heating with fossil fuels, the committee recommends that it spearhead a 2022 EnergySmart HOMES Campaign in partnership with Sustainable Westchester. Currently Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow

and Irvington have joined together to run a [Rivertowns Campaign](#). Sustainable Westchester had received a grant to help them promote these campaigns and, at present, the funding is nearing its end. Sustainable Westchester may get a new grant in 2022. The funding determines whether Ardsley would run a small campaign or be able to partner with other close communities to create a larger campaign. Asha is in contact with Sustainable Westchester and the Village Manager during this very preliminary investigative stage to assess the feasibility and benefits of a campaign.

5. Board of Trustee Review - Eda

- The committee looks forward to presenting a summary of its 2021/2022 strategic goals to the BOT in early 2022.

6. Other/Open Discussion/Q&A - Eda

- None

7. Closing - Eda

- Next CEAC meeting (open to the public) will be February 3, 2022 from 7 pm – 8 pm via Zoom. CEAC weekly working meetings are held Tuesdays from 1:00 – 3:00.

8. Adjournment - Eda

- Eda adjourned the meeting at 8:19 pm.