

Minutes to the Village of Ardsley Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting, 02/03/2022, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Attendees: Trustee Liaison Asha Bencosme, Trustee Liaison Steve Edelstein, Luke Inoue (CAC & AHS ETF Liaison), Mayor Nancy Kaboolian, Eda Kapsis (CAC Chair & Facilitator), Lorraine Kuhn (CAC and Village Stormwater Coordinator), Dave Lew (CAC Steering Committee), Carol Sommerfield (CAC Steering Committee & minutes), Glenn Weinberg (CAC)

1. Report on Recent and Current Initiatives

a) *The Sacrifice Zone*

Asha reported on *The Sacrifice Zone* film screening and panel discussion held on January 13, 2022. The event, produced in partnership with the Ardsley MDIC, helped to raise the important issue of Environmental Social Injustice and, specifically, the impact of our waste on low-income communities, many of them communities of color. The ability to highlight this as a local issue with impact on people here in Westchester County was powerful. Disposal of our waste is a complex issue and the focus on potential solutions and action during the panel discussion was a key message. Feedback by attendees also highlighted the power of our youth's voice in this discussion.

b) *Ardsley's carbon footprint measurement: EVs in 10502*

Dave shared the number of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Plug In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV) in Ardsley over the past few years. A positive trend is the dramatic increase in electric vehicles over the past year (see document below for the presentation).

Eda and Dave are working on creating a consistent model for measuring our carbon footprint in 10502. Unfortunately, the existing measurement tools are highly simplistic, and the data is out of date. The model being developed will focus on the main drivers of carbon emissions in Ardsley that can be measured: Housing, Transportation, and Waste. Eda and Dave have interviewed and studied other carbon reduction initiatives to understand their measurement models to help guide the one developed for Ardsley. Dave and Eda are now combing public records to ascertain what data is available to track in the model. The measurement model is expected to be completed in March.



EVs - 10502.pdf

c) *Demonstration Gardens: Town of Greenburgh and Ardsley*

Carol provided an overview on progress and plans for public pollinator gardens in Greenburgh (AFV Park and Hart's Brook Preserve) and Ardsley (additional pollinator gardens added to the Ardsley Public Library). Carol and Steve have been partnering with Linda Keil (Ardsley Garden Club) on the Ardsley Library project. The Library Garden preparation and planting will be part of Ardsley Cares for April. Tentative dates for the Garden community activities are:

- Ardsley Library gardens: April 23/24
- Ardsley Library gardens/weeding at Pascone & Silliman: April 30/May 1
- AFV Pollinator Garden planting: May 14/15
- Hart's Brook Garden planting: May 21/22

Additional Updates:

- A new vegetable gardening initiative will be headed by Rushi Agarwal and will focus on home vegetable gardening. The initiative will kick off in Spring and include education, support, and free seedlings to residents.
- The second Ardsley Pollinator Pathway Open Gardens is planned for early June and will also include a free plant swap.
- We're excited to partner with Miriam Sassalos to provide opportunities for the girl scouts to participate in the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway project, beginning with the library garden project.
- Monthly Pollinator Pathway newsletters and Zoom events are ongoing. We will hopefully begin to switch to in-person activities in spring.

d) *CAC Community Communications*

The CAC has done a review of the effectiveness of outreach and communication strategies, weighing the impact of various strategies against the time and cost to produce. The *Going GREEN in Ardsley* Newsletter does not appear to provide the value hoped for and will be shelved at present. Instead, we are working to increase the content in Ardsleycan.org and point to the website for tips and guidance in the weekly *Ardsley Connects* email blast.

Eda and Dave have been working on migrating the Ardsley CAN distribution lists to Mailchimp. Mailchimp emails are less likely to be sent to Spam folders and MailChimp allows for essential measurement of communication effectiveness.

The CAC initiated a new communication channel in February, targeting new residents. A [webpage](#) on Ardsleycan.org has been created to assist new homeowners with green and cost-effective solutions for heating and cooling and to provide guidance on the numerous green energy incentives available. Postcards with the new webpage address will be sent by CAC every 3 – 6 months to new homeowners.

2. New Work in Progress

a) *NYSERDA CEC (SW Partner) Campaigns: Clean Energy and Cooling (partnership with Town of Greenburgh) & Community Solar.*

Eda provided an update on the planned Ardsley NYSERDA campaigns for 2022. The Village of Ardsley and CAC have completed scoping documents for both campaigns (attached) and will be working with Sustainable Westchester on implementation of the campaigns. Eda will act as the project Manager for both projects and the Village of Ardsley and CEC/CSC Taskforce will be the lead organization for the campaigns. The Town of Greenburgh and the Greenburgh Conservation Advisory Council are identified as resources on our respective documents. Training through Sustainable Westchester on the campaigns will commence in February.

Successful completion of the campaigns will provide a \$5,000 award each for the Village which can be used to fund initiatives to reduce emissions.



CHC EnergySmart
Homes Village of Ardsley 2022-23
Scoping Document



Community Solar
Village of Ardsley 2022-23
Scoping Document

b) *Possible Invasive Vine Removal at Macy Park*

Mayor Kaboolian has been in contact with the Westchester Parks Department to initiate invasive vine removal at Macy Park, scheduled for April 9. Steve Edelstein is coordinating with Ardsley Cares to make this an Ardsley Cares community event. The link for registration will be available and publicized. The Ardsley High School ETF will be asked to participate, and Luke will work to identify volunteers.

c) *CAC 2022/23 Budget due Feb. 11*

Eda reminded the committee that the preliminary budget is due to the Village for review by February 11.

d) *Planning for Village Use of CSC/CEC Awards*

Asha reported on our current Clean Energy Community (CEC) point status. At present we have 3,500 points and are eligible for a \$10K award for reaching 3,000 points. After successful completion of the two planned NYSERDA campaigns (Community Solar and EnergySmart Homes) we will reach a 4000 point threshold. Funding has been exhausted for small communities who reach

4000 points and above. Previously \$20,000 awards were available for reaching the 4000 point threshold and \$70,000 for reaching 5,000 points or greater. The Village will continue to take action to reduce emissions and submit details to NYSEERDA's Clean Energy Communities program should more funding become available.

Unlike the campaign awards of \$5,000 each, the CEC point awards have specific guidelines and restrictions on how the money can be used. Asha is working with the Village to identify appropriate projects to fund with the award money. CEC focuses on reductions in CO2 equivalent emissions. Using the awards for Clean Energy Studies for the Village, most probably for Village Hall and the Library, is being targeted.

e) Board Updates

None

f) Planning for April 2022 Earth Day

Several activities are being planned for Earth Day/Month, including the public garden volunteer events. Additional options are also being considered.

Steve is working on organizing a Village-wide cleanup event as part of Ardsley Earth Month activities and is seeking someone to act as the event lead.

Lorraine announced two key annual water related dates:

- March 14 – March 20 is Fix a Leak week
- March 22 is World Water Day

3. Discussion and Closing

The next CAC meeting will be Thursday, April 7, 2022, 7-8 pm via Zoom.