

Minutes to the Village of Ardsley Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting, 06/02/2022, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Attendees: Trustee Liaison Asha Bencosme, Trustee Liaison Steve Edelstein, 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. Heating and Cooling Campaign Update

Eda provided an update on the campaign.

- We believe we have met the threshold criteria for the campaign and, therefore, are eligible for an award from NYSERDA for completing a successful campaign. Existing funds in the award pool will determine whether we receive an award for the campaign.
- We have decided not to pursue community solar at this time due to the long waiting list for a solar farm. This will only cause frustration for those interested in this solution. Once there is more capacity in the system, we will revisit a Community Solar Campaign.
- Asha reported that the NYS Clean Heat program, which provided rebates to building owners wishing to transition to clean heating and cooling systems, has exhausted all funding at this time in the Con Edison service area, which is significantly ahead of schedule. Con Edison, the local administrator of this program on behalf of NYS, has petitioned the Public Service Commission to redirect available funding from other energy efficiency programs to this one. They are optimistic that the program will continue given the immense demand to decommission fossil fuel systems.
 - **Action:** Asha will check with Larry Tomasso on heating/cooling permits issued through 5/31/22 and provide the summary of permits to Eda.

2. Pollinator Pathway Update

Carol provided an update on the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway:

- An Ardsley Pollinator Pathway Steering Committee was formed in Spring 2022 and consists of eight people, including Carol as the Chair.
- Numerous events were held during the spring, including:
 - Planting of public pollinator gardens in April and May (Ardsley Library, AFV Park, Hart's Brook Park and Preserve)
 - A second Veggie Mania event (May)
 - The second annual Ardsley Open Pollinator and Vegetable Garden Tour (June)
 - The first annual free plant swap (June)
- Maintenance instructions/plans, teams of volunteers, and a weekly schedule for the growing season was developed for the Ardsley Library,

AFV and Hart's Brook Pollinator gardens.

- Three guides that provide step-by-step instructions, including materials, plants, designs and quantities, were developed and rolled-out: [Full/Part Sun Wildflower Mailbox Gardens](#); [Full/Part Sun Sedge and Grass Mailbox Gardens](#); and [Part Shade Wildflower Mailbox Gardens](#).
- Over 65 homeowner in-depth garden consultations and reports have been completed since March of 2021.

3. Measurement Plan

Dave provided an update on the residential Ardsley Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and some of the challenges being faced. [The slides can be accessed here.](#)

As a recap, Dave summarized the four areas of focus in 10502 where residents have influence:

1. Heating and cooling of homes
2. Transportation using vehicles owned by households
3. Waste collected by DPW from households
4. Land use and landscaping of private yards (Pollinator Pathways).

Eda Kapsis, Dave Lew, Carol Sommerfield, David DiGregorio and Joe Cerretani had a very productive meeting in May about waste measurement, ways to reduce waste in Ardsley, and the cost of waste. Dave D. provided Dave L. with in-depth measurement of waste and recycling in Ardsley.

One of the challenges in GHG measurement is the geographic scope of the measurement. Zip code 10502 includes areas outside of the Village of Ardsley (the Village of Ardsley is only about ~60% of the 10502 zip code) . Much of the data available is for 10502 but waste data is specifically for the Village of Ardsley. This is an inconsistency in the measurement we will need to accept and document in the GHG inventory.

Asha stressed that including the emissions impact of Pollinator Pathways and increasing green spaces in our community is valuable. The danger is that we tend to focus on mitigation / reduction of new GHG emissions, but we also need to draw down the existing GHGs in the atmosphere to prevent the worst outcomes of climate change. Trying to put a value on people changing their landscape practices, planting more trees and native plants, conserving water, preserving green space, etc. puts a value on drawdown, which is critically important in the big picture.

Action: Dave D, to supply Dave L. with waste data every 3 months.

4. Outreach to Schools

Eda provided an update on the outreach to schools. Concord Road may be interested in installing a pollinator garden and there may be other potential environmental projects being considered. Eda will meet with Concord Road Principal Jen Darling this summer. Jen is very engaged with climate and pollinator pathway initiatives and action.

5. Budget

Eda provided a brief update on the budget for 2022/2023. The requested budget for the CAC was approved.

6. CCA Contract Renewal

Asha provided an update on the CCA Renewal:

- CCA MoU: We are unsure of the current status. Glenn Weinberg added that, based on his understanding of the current markets, it will be difficult to meet the price not to exceed in the MoU. Glenn suggested that if the CCA contract does lapse at the end of June, we can remind people that they can explore Energy Supply Companies (ESCOs) and are not stuck with Con Ed's supply. This would lock them into a fixed rate and protect them from high price volatility.
 - **Action:** CAC team to consider an education campaign to promote investigation into green energy ESCO.
- CSC: NYU Wagner Capstone study: Asha is exploring a capstone project to have municipal vehicles reviewed and determine what alternative clean vehicles are on the market, including the required infrastructure needs. If we were to complete this project, it would earn us points in the DEC's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program.

7. Intervillage CAC Meeting

Dave provided an update on the intervillage CAC meeting held in May. Dave and Luke represented Ardsley. Some updates from Hastings-on-Hudson of interest:

- The TILO Shed (Take it or leave it) is open to anyone, not just residents of Hastings.
 - Hastings is installing a deer fence at Hillside Woods
 - They will be hiring an Environmental Officer
- Irvington will be hosting the next Repair Café.

8. Discussion and Closing

The next CAC meeting will be Thursday, September 1, 2022, 7-8 pm via Zoom.