

## **Minutes to the Village of Ardsley Conservation and Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), 6/03/21, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

---

**Attendees:** Asha Bencosme, Michael Fischgrund, Trustee Liaison Steve Edelstein, Mayor Nancy Kaboolian, Eda Kapsis (facilitator), Lorraine Kuhn, Dave Lew, Carol Sommerfield (minutes), Glenn Weinberg

### **1. Opening**

Eda opened the meeting at 7:04 pm. Asha provided the opening inspiration:

*"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." - James Baldwin*

### **2. Congratulations to Michael Fischgrund**

Eda and the team gave hearty congratulations and appreciation to Michael upon his upcoming graduation from Ardsley High School. Michael has been very involved with the CEAC and has assisted in many of the CEAC efforts over the past few years, including presenting at some of the **Ardsley CAN by 2030!** webinars. His leadership and commitment to environmental issues and actions has been most appreciated and valued. Good luck Michael, and thank you! You will be missed by the team.

### **3. Ardsley 2021 Earth Month (Carol)**

A month of over 14 activities and events in alignment with the pillars of **Ardsley CAN by 2030!** provided residents with education and awareness on topics from carbon reduction to gardening for climate change. The events were well received and included participants from the other Rivertowns.

The first Ardsley Pollinator Pathway Garden Tour was a success with higher participation than expected.

Many thanks to the Village, the team, the gardeners who opened their properties to the public, and the participants for making Ardsley Earth Month a success.

### **4. CEC/CSC Task Force: Updates and Milestones (Asha):**

#### **A. Climate Smart Communities (CSC)**

All but one of the actions for our Bronze certification have been reviewed, approved by the Village Manager, and entered into the CSC portal. Only one action remains and is in progress: the Village Greenhouse Gas Inventory. This is a high priority action and must be included in our submission. As of now we

expect to complete the inventory in time for the July deadline. Many thanks to Asha, the Village of Ardsley staff, and the CEAC team for the focused effort required to reach the points necessary for a July Bronze certification submission. It demonstrates the power of a motivated cross-functional team.

## **B. Clean Energy Communities (CEC)**

We have successfully completed the GridRewards campaign in Ardsley during April. By completing this action Ardsley will now receive a \$5,000 award from NYSERDA and will have 200 points added to our current CEC total of 2,700 points. A number of other actions are under consideration that could bring us to the 3,000 point level. At that point we can apply for a \$10K grant. Achieving 4,000 points opens more grant money to Ardsley.

## **5. 2019-2020 and 2020 – 2021 Annual CEC Reports (Eda and Carol)**

Due to the global pandemic the CEAC was unable to publicly discuss and submit the 2019-2020 annual report. Eda provided a summary of the numerous accomplishments during the first year of the CEAC (2019-2020). The foundational work that occurred in creating and building the committee, engaging stakeholders, honing its mission, and setting baselines and measurement led the way for the accomplishments of 2020-2021.

Carol provided a highlight of the 2020-2021 team accomplishments, including the launch of **Ardsley CAN by 2030!** The reports will be posted publicly with these minutes. Mayor Kaboolian suggested that instead of including the progress reports on the June 7 Board agenda we instead schedule the progress reports for the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Action:** Asha to request the change to the Board agenda.

## **6. Other/Open Discussion/Q&A**

- During June the CEAC is developing their strategy and goals for the 2021-2022 fiscal period.
- Volunteers are needed to weed Silliman Park on Saturday June 12 from 9 am – noon. Susan Jainchill and Trustee Edelstein will lead the effort.
  - **Action:** Carol to request volunteers from the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway distribution list.

## **7. Closing (Eda)**

Next CEAC meeting (open to the public) will be October 7, 2021 from 7 pm – 8 pm via Zoom. CEAC weekly working meetings are held Tuesdays from 1:00 – 3:00.

## **8. Adjournment (Dave)**

### ***Song to Gaia***

[Nancy Vedder-Shults, Ph.D.](#)

Gaia, you who unite earth, air, fire and water  
on this beautiful blue-green orb,  
Mother of us all, bless us today!  
You who birthed the two-leggeds and the four-leggeds,  
the creeping animals and those who swim and fly,  
Remind us that we are one with all our relations  
as we live our lives today.

You who are literally the ground of our being,  
the source of our life and our welfare,  
Root in our center until we live  
as moving trees on your surface.  
Reunite us, we who so often feel separate and alone,  
with our brothers and sisters,  
the animals, the plants, the mountains, the clouds,  
and all of humanity  
As we bring a new world to birth.

The entire poem can be found here:

<https://gaiamminute.wordpress.com/2011/01/04/poems-about-earth-nature-gaia/>