

Minutes to the Village of Ardsley Conservation and Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), 10/07/21, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

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

1. Opening

Eda opened the meeting at 7:06 pm and Dave provided the opening inspiration:

"Climate change is not only a threat, it is, above all, an opportunity." Greta Thunberg

2. Congratulations to the Village and CSC/CEC Task force – Bronze Certification was Achieved

It truly took a village to achieve CSC Bronze certification. Ardsley is now officially Bronze certified. Many thanks to the Mayor, Trustees, Village administration and staff, as well as the CEAC volunteers who made this happen. It shows the power of teamwork to achieve something great.

3. 2021/2022CEAC Plan Draft - Asha

During the summer the CEAC core team worked to develop a realistic strategy and goals for the new fiscal year. All initiatives chosen support the three pillars of **Ardsley CAN by 2030!**: Carbon reduction, Act sustainably, Neighbor by neighbor.

The devastating effects of Ida has put climate change front and center for many people. The CEAC believes that the following framework for reviewing development and changes in the Village would be helpful to ensure climate and environmental impact is considered along with other criteria:

Encourage establishing a sustainability framework for all decisions, given the accelerated rate of climate change.

Suggestions:

- **mitigation of emissions & adaptation** for climate events, to protect life & property
- **conservation & expansion of natural systems** that protect us
- **cost-benefit analysis:** potential long-term economic cost outweighs current economic benefits. Reverse as well, recognize that long-term economic opportunities may outweigh upfront costs.

The core committee met with Mayor Kaboolian, Acting Village Manager Indelicato, Village Confidential Secretary Hessler, and Trustee Liaison Steve Edelstein on October 5 to review the planned goals for 2021 to ensure alignment with Village strategy and goals.

A. Pollinator Pathway (Carol)

Building Partnerships

- Ardsley Pollinator Pathways is partnering with Tarrytown Pollinator Pathways and the Town of Greenburgh to create three demonstration pollinator gardens, two at Harts Brook Park and one at Anthony F. Veteran Park.
- Ardsley Pollinator Pathway is championing and facilitating a group of leaders in the garden environmental movement. Monthly meetings include representatives from Stone Barns Center and Rockefeller Preserve, Hilltop Hanover Farm, Cornell Extension, The Native Plant Center, Harts Brook Preserve, Tarrytown Pollinator Pathway, Westchester Healthy Yards, Westchester Pollinator Pathway, Greenwich Land Trust and many more. Actions focus on preserving and commercializing local ecotypes, promoting sound landscaping practice, supporting pollinators and ecosystems, and management of invasive plants and animals.
- Carol has joined the Ardsley Garden Club to ensure that we have a direct line of communication and managed coordination between the Ardsley Garden Club and the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway. We are partnering on offering garden consults to Ardsley residents, as well as other activities.
- Preliminary work has begun on applying for a grant award from the Bronx River Sound Shore Chapter of Audubon Society to seek funds through the Ardsley Garden Club to add pollinator plants to the Ardsley Library pollinator gardens as well as two other Ardsley parks.

Growing the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway

- Pollinator garden consults have resumed.
- The first Ardsley Pollinator Get Together is on Friday at 7 pm via Zoom.
- The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway monthly newsletter kicked off in September.

B. Ardsley CAN by 2030! (Eda and Asha)

A key task for the committee is to refine the carbon emission baseline for 10502 with newer and more accurate data. The original baseline carbon footprint for the Village utilized existing sources used to calculate a municipality's carbon footprint. Since that time better and more current sources are available. Eda and Asha are working with ICLEI on producing a more accurate carbon emission baseline and current state.

Actions:

- Carol to follow-up with Mayor Kaboolian and Trustee Liaison Steve concerning what organization will hold the pollinator garden grant award if we receive it.
- CEAC will look further into AGZA, an organization that may be able to assess the Village's equipment and make recommendations on how to electrify some of it. CEAC will make contact with AGZA and bring the information back to the Village.

4. 125th Anniversary October 10 or 11 (Carol)

The CEAC will have a table at the 125th Ardsley Anniversary event and look forward to personally interacting with residents after almost two years of social distancing and Zoom interaction. The committee will have games, activities, raffles and prizes for all ages as well information on ***Ardsley CAN by 2030!*** and actionable recommendations for residents.

Luke Inoue is mobilizing a group of AHS students to support the Ardsley DPW to ensure participants recycle right during the 125th celebration. Students will be manning the recycling stations and assist and guide participants. This appreciated support helps the Village advance to the eventual goal of zero waste at Village events

Action: CEAC to create a sign-up sheet and take pictures of the students working at the event to ensure they receive community credit for their service.

5. Community Survey Draft Review (Eda)

CEAC is developing a survey for those on their distribution lists to understand interests and concerns that can help drive future CEAC goals, projects and communications. The survey is anticipated to be sent to the CEAC distribution list during October 2021.

6. NYS conference: NYSACC reminder and notice (Eda)

- CEAC members will be attending the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) conference October 21-23. This year Westchester County is hosting the conference.
- The Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC) will be holding their annual meeting on October 28 from 6 pm – 8 pm virtually. CEAC hopes to send a representative.

7. Other/Open Discussion/Q&A

- Work will start soon on the review and renewal of Community Choice Aggregation. The current 18 month agreement ends in June 2022 and it is anticipated the Board will vote on whether to renew mid-winter.

8. Closing (Eda)

Next CEAC meeting (open to the public) will be December 2, 2021 from 7 pm – 8 pm via Zoom. CEAC weekly working meetings are held Tuesdays from 1:00 – 3:00.

9. Adjournment (Eda/Carol)

Eda adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm and Carol provided the closing:

“Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so.” Noam Chomsky