

# **Pollinator Pathway Steering Committee Minutes**

## **January 2, 2024**

**Present:** Linda Azif, Linda Caldwell, Kathy Evers, Julie Larkin, Jen Nordhem, Carol Sommerfield (minutes)

**Regrets:** Ruchi Agarwal, Rececca Arkin, Savannah Donahue, Steve Edelstein

### **INTRODUCTION AND UPDATES:**

The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway is now an official Village of Ardsley Committee. As such we are responsible for holding open meetings and posting our agenda in advance of each monthly meeting. Minutes from the meetings will also be public and posted on the Village of Ardsley website. We are thrilled to be recognized as an official Ardsley committee!

We had a successful and jolly pollinator pathway volunteer appreciation event on December 6 at Carol's house. The format seemed to work nicely and the indoor venue made it both more comfortable and immune to bad weather.

### **UPDATES on OUR FOUR Pillars:**

#### ***Creating Habitat:***

- Ardsley Community Garden Update
  - No additional work on this project has occurred over the holidays. Ruchi and Linda hope to get feedback during the Spring Gardening Festival from the public on their attitudes toward an Ardsley community garden.
- Hart's Brook new gardens and grant application
  - The two new gardens at Hart's Brook will be created early spring through 2024. A grant proposal was submitted to Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon for \$1,000 and has been positively received. The Board will officially vote on the proposal at the end of January. The Town of Greenburgh Parks and Recreation has also committed funds to the creation of the gardens. We are interested in planting native plants to support locally endangered pollinators as identified in Pollinate Now! (the video of our sponsored webinar [can be accessed here](#) and the free book [can be accessed here](#)). The audubon grant will allow us to purchase rarer native plants from specialty suppliers.
- Tree and shrub sapling give away - Greenburgh Public Library
  - The Greenburgh Library is looking to the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway to create content for a program to be held live at the library and also streamed via Zoom to highlight the trees and shrubs chosen for the give-away.

- Please mark your calendars for the event since the APP will be providing assistance and advice at the give-away.
  - **Wednesday, April 24, 6 pm - 7 pm:** Presentation on the trees and shrubs available in the giveaway. In person at the Greenburgh Library and via Zoom.
  - **Sunday, April 28, 2:00 - 4:00:** Tree giveaway (indoors) at the Greenburgh Library. Volunteers needed to assist and provide information on growing/planting the trees.
- Milkweed seedling and native plant giveaway at Spring Gardening Festival
  - Carol is cold stratifying ~100 various varieties of milkweed seedlings for the give-away at the Spring Gardening Festival.
  - Carol would also like to provide a free native plant plug give-away at the event and will work with Mickey on selecting some foolproof plants that will look good in spring (e.g. packera).
- A very successful invasive vine cutting event was held at Macy Park on December 9 - we had more volunteers than equipment! Many thanks to Julie who led a team in the north section of the park. Partnering with Westchester Parks Foundation, we are trying a winter vine cutting event at Macy Park on January 27 from noon - 2 pm. We will be working in new sections of the park. Registration is now open on the website.
- **Action:** If anyone is interested in working on any of the above, please let Carol know.

#### ***Education/Awareness:***

- The Garden Club of Irvington Holly Days event, focused on pollinators, was a huge success. Carol, Margie Lavender and Melissa Reavis were the guest presenters. Congratulations Kathy and Linda A.!
- The Mighty Oak kid program delivered in partnership with the Ardsley Library on December 28 was a big success. Thanks to Linda Caldwell for helping with the event!
- Social Media postings are needed for our January and February events - please share with your social networks. Registration links are on the website:
  - Going Wild with Hedgerows, Meadows and Plants, Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 pm Zoom
  - Easy Native Trees for Your Yard, Thursday, February 1, 7:30 Zoom
  - Easy Native Shrubs for Your Yard, Thursday, February 8, 7:30 Zoom
- We are placing a hold on the free in-depth garden consultations. Each consultation utilizes 4 - 6 hours of work with limited results. There is a new native plant designer/implementer vendor who is providing 30 minute free garden consults and reasonable prices for designing native gardens. This fills the niche nicely; prior to this

the only solution was very expensive (and very booked) vendors to help homeowners create native plant gardens.

- Spring Gardening Festival:
  - Carol met with the garden club on January 2 to review [the draft agenda](#). Everything looks set on the schedule except for the speaker to provide a session on invasive plants. Julie will continue to try to get a speaker. If we come up empty then the alternative is to use that slot for an overview of the proposed community garden project and a facilitated discussion to get people's thoughts/feedback/interest/wishes for a community garden. Ruchi and Linda would take the lead on the session development and delivery.
  - Carol has been in contact with Mickey (Zoe's Native Plants) and we will again be offering a native plant plug ordering opportunity (online and in person) as part of the festival. Carol and Mickey plan to meet next week to move the pre-order forward.
  - Please mark March 10 and March 24 (rain date)) on your calendars since we will need volunteers to provide expertise and information at the event. Setup and knock down will also be needed.

#### ***Partnerships - new:***

Carol has been asked to be the guest speaker at the Dobbs Ferry Garden Club in April. She will be presenting "Lessons Learned from 100 Garden Consultations".

#### ***Policy***

- The policy team met in December to finalize the strategy and plan for researching and creating recommendations for updating codes/policies in the six areas identified. Due to the holidays the team will begin working on their assignments in January.
- Carol had an opportunity to attend a Village Board meeting in December to request the new construction at the corner of Ashford and Saw Mill River Road make outdoor lighting Dark Skies compliant, and also advocate for all planting at the site be native plants. Both requests will be incorporated into the plans being developed for review by the Village.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 6, 8:30 pm via Zoom**