

# **Pollinator Pathway Steering Committee Minutes**

## **February 6, 2024**

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

**Regrets:** Ruchi Agarwal, Rececca Arkin, Linda Caldwell, Savannah Donahue, Jen Nordhem, Dina Patterson, Steve Edelstein

### **INTRODUCTION AND UPDATES:**

- We received a grant for \$1,000 from BRSS Audubon for the new Greenburgh pollinator gardens at Hart's Brook, plus a nice additional surprise.
- The Enterprise has stopped publication - hopefully only temporarily.

### **UPDATES on OUR FOUR PILLARS:**

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

- Invasive Vine Removal held at Macy Park, January 27, 2024
  - We had a good turnout for a winter vine cutting event. There weren't a lot of invasive vines to cut, which is a good news story. Macy Park is good until fall/early winter.
- New Event: Invasive Vine Removal at South County Trailway, Saturday, March 16, noon - 2 pm
  - We'd like to hold another vine cutting event - this time at the South County Trailway. We'll be leading this one and Carol is trying to coordinate with Steve Pucillo from Saw Mill Coalition to identify the best areas in need of work.
- Julie will attend the invasive plant forum sponsored by Westchester County/Planting Westchester.
- Ardsley Community Garden Update: Ruchi and Linda
  - We are working on the proposal. The next important step is to measure Ardsley Village resident interest in a community garden. A survey is being finalized to try to ascertain interest. We can also use the Spring Gardening festival to spread the word and hear resident feedback about the idea.
- Hart's Brook new pollinator gardens update
  - We received word today the plant order PO is in progress, which means we can place an order with Prospero in mid-January. We continue to follow-up concerning the new water line to the gardens, sheet mulching supplies, and a mulch delivery.
  - We have received the requested grant for \$1,000 from Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon.
- Greenburgh Library tree and shrub sapling giveaway - update

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- We have selected and ordered the trees to give away: highbush cranberry, ninebark, silky dogwood, Virginia rose, black oak, northern barberry, and witch hazel. A total of 200 trees will be available on Sunday, April 28 from 2-4 pm.
- Kathy and Carol will be creating a presentation to be given in person at the library and on Zoom Wednesday April 24 at 6 pm to talk about trees, the specifics of the trees in the giveaway, and how to plant and care for a sapling. They will also be there at the event to give away the trees and answer questions.
- Native Plug sale/ giveaways at festival - status
  - Mickey is finalizing the list of the plants in the presale. Carol ordered two flats of Packera plugs to give away throughout the festival. Milkweed stratified seeds in pots will also be given away for free.
- Potential pollinator garden at Macy Park
  - Steve and Carol are working with Westchester Parks to get approval for a small pollinator garden at the Macy Park sign. A design has been completed and a budget has been created. A planned meeting with Westchester Parks is planned for March. There are issues with the site that need to be overcome before the project can go ahead (e.g. water, maintenance, delivery of supplies on the day of planting). Without those issues resolved the project is at risk and probably cannot commence.

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

- Carol will be presenting a number of pollinator programs this spring for other organization: Greening Your Yard (March 20 at Woodlands Temple), Lessons Learned from 100 Garden Consults (Dobbs Ferry Garden Club, April 11)
- Kathy and potentially Jen will be volunteers to guide people on planting natives and pollinator gardens at the Lyndhurst weekend garden event in June
- Spring Gardening Festival:
  - The Garden Club is finalizing their offerings
  - Dina and Carol to finalize the kid's activities and how many volunteers we need
  - We need volunteers for the event - a request for help was sent out in e-mail and will be in Ardsley Connects.
  - Social media posts should start two weeks prior to the event. The program was reviewed with the team.

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

Lyndhurst

### ***Policy***

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- The policy team has been working on code revisions. We have a meeting with the Village on February 23rd to discuss process, progress, and pose key questions/issues.
- **References:** The code changes in priority (and delivery) order:
  - Modifying code to allow for maintained native plant meadows on front lawns (Dina and Jen)
  - Modifying code to 1) require all new construction to plant native where possible; 2) requiring native trees, shrubs and perennials on Village property (Eda with support from Carol)
  - Modifications to Ardsley Tree codes (Carol and Savannah)
  - Gas leaf blower restrictions (Eda and Jen)
  - Dark Skies (starting with awareness/education (Carol)

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 8:30 pm via Zoom**