

Pollinator Pathway Steering Committee Minutes

March 5, 2024

Present: Ruchi Agarwal, Linda Caldwell, Dina Patterson, Kathy Evers, Julie Larkin, Carol Sommerfield (minutes)

Regrets: Rececca Arkin, Savannah Donahue, Jen Nordhem, Steve Edelstein

INTRODUCTION AND UPDATES:

- Carol attended the Ecological Landscape Alliance conference February 21-23. There was lots of great information as well as a focus on soil health.

UPDATES on OUR FOUR PILLARS:

Creating Habitat:

- INew Event: Invasive Vine Removal at South County Trailway, Saturday, March 16, noon - 2 pm, rain date March 17, noon - 2 pm
 - We'll be partnering with Westchester Parks Foundation and Steve Pucillo (Saw Mill Coalition) for this invasive taming and trash pickup event. March 16 is also ArdsleyCares day. Steve has been in contact with the organizers as to whether this event can be included in their volunteer portfolio for the day. We haven't heard any updates.
 - Steve would like us to work around the Lofts at the Ardley/Hastings border. Parking is easy and the area needs remediation.
- Julie will attend the invasive plant forum sponsored by Westchester County/Planting Westchester.
- Ardsley Community Garden Update: Ruchi and Linda
 - A draft survey is being created to assess community interest in participating in and volunteering for a community garden in Ardsley
 - Ruchi is working to recruit more volunteers for the project team
- Hart's Brook new pollinator gardens update
 - The plant order has been placed with Prospero for delivery the first week in May. We are planning a community planting event for the gardens on Saturday May 4, rain date May 5. Bobby Breen has promised that the new water line will be installed in March. Carol is following up on the purchase of X-Board so we can start sheet mulching the site in late March/ early April.
- Greenburgh Library tree and shrub sapling giveaway - update
 - We have selected and ordered the trees to give away: highbush cranberry, ninebark, silky dogwood, Virginia rose, black oak, northern barberry, witch hazel and more. A total of 375 trees will be available on Sunday, April 28 from 1-4 pm.

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- 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.
- Tree guards are critical and so we will purchase rolls of chicken wire, have them cut (by HS students?) and then distribute the cut wire with instructions on how to assemble. Or we can purchase premade plastic guards - still to be determined.
- Native Plug sale/ giveaways at festival - status
 - The two flats of packers for the free giveaway have been ordered and will arrive the week before the festival. Milkweed stratified seeds in pots will also be given away for free.
 - The native plant preorder is now open and will run through April 10. We are featuring 12 great native plants this year.
- Potential pollinator garden at Macy Park
 - The next step is to meet with Westchester Parks at the site. Carol has contacted Emily Rauch of Hilltop Hanover Farm and discussed the use of native ecotypes in the planting if possible. Emily should have large plant plugs ready in the fall for some of the plants in the design.

Education/Awareness:

- Carol will be presenting a number of pollinator programs this spring for other organization: Lessons Learned from 100 Garden Consults (Dobbs Ferry Garden Club, April 11) and Greening Your Yard (Date TBD at Woodlands Temple),
- 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 events are set and (hopefully) ready to go.
 - Social media posts are needed.

Partnerships - new:

No new partnerships

Policy

- Dina and Carol met with Nancy Kaboolian, Joe Cerretani and Steve Edelstein to review the status of the code update project. It was a very productive meeting and the current direction was confirmed. Next steps were defined and it is hoped that drafts of some of the code updates will be ready for Board work sessions in March/April.
 - **References:** The code changes in priority (and delivery) order:

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- 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, April 2, 8:30 pm via Zoom