

## **Minutes to the Village of Ardsley Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting, 10/06/2022, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

---

**Attendees:** Trustee Liaison Asha Bencosme, Trustee Liaison Steve Edelstein, Eda Kapsis (CAC Chair & Facilitator), Lorraine Kuhn (CAC and Village Stormwater Coordinator), Dave Lew (CAC Steering Committee), Carol Sommerfield (CAC Steering Committee & minutes), Glenn Weinberg (CAC)

### **1. Review of Recommended Strategic Priorities for 2022/2023**

Eda provided an update on the strategic priorities for the committee. A draft of the priorities was reviewed with the Village Manager and the Confidential Secretary in late August to ensure alignment to Village priorities and operations. Key points from the 2022/2023 strategic priority discussion:

#### **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA):**

- Glenn Weinberg provided an update on Sustainable Westchester's presentation to the Board concerning modifications to amend Chapter 81, "Community Choice Aggregation (Energy) Program" of the Ardsley Village code. Sustainable Westchester (SW) seeks to modify the existing code in municipalities to take advantage of solar and other community based renewable energy programs. The language of the proposed amendments was, at times, confusing and obscure leading to a lack of clarity. The ability of the CCA to be flexible and incorporate future renewable energy options is both strategic as a critical path to reduce emissions. The issue is the SW suggested wording for the amendments. Local municipalities can modify the code to better reflect their goals and to make the suggested updates more understandable to the average person.
  - **Action:** Glenn to share some suggested changes to the amendment with Asha to make it more understandable and clearer while retaining the need for flexibility.

#### **Low Embodied Carbon Concrete (LECC)**

- Dave Lew provided an update on promoting the use of LECC in the Village. Concrete is a major contributor to greenhouse gasses and so a strategic priority. Ardsley is already using the DoT approved LECC mix, however the mix uses fly ash or slag, both products of emission producing processes. Ideally the DoT will approve LECC mixes using materials such as ground glass, which are more environmentally friendly.
  - **Actions:**
    - Dave Lew to work with the Village to find potential applications for ground glass LECC mix in the Village.
    - Dave to reach out to Andrea Stewart Cousins and Maryjane Shimsky to promote the use of LECC a standard in NYS.

- Dave to discuss with the Village the benefits of partnering with other villages on LECC projects. Partnering on projects performed at the same time can increase use of LECC while potentially reducing cost.

**Natural Resources Inventory (NRI):**

- The NRI RFP has been sent out again for bid after no responses were received from the first round. Funding from the DEC could be a future possibility to help progress. It is important that the NRI address climate adaptation.
  - **Action:** Asha to follow up with the Village Manager on status and next steps for the NRI.

**Ardsley CAN/ CSC Taskforce:**

- Eda provided an update on communication and outreach planned for Ardsley CAN in 2022/2023. Enewsletters will be created and distributed every other month. The goal is to increase awareness and inform about actions everyone can take to reduce emissions in a more consistent way. Additionally, the committee will meet regularly with the Village Manager and Confidential Secretary to ensure alignment of efforts and increased communication and partnership.
- Eda is in conversation with the Village Manager about some potential Climate Smart Community actions that the Village may be able to take this year.

**Ardsley Pollinator Pathway:**

- Carol presented the goals for 2022/2023 in the four strategic pillars of the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway project: create habitat, education and outreach, partnerships and policy. The team is focused on maintaining and growing the programs and initiatives created during 2021/2022 while moving forward in each of the pillars with new programs and plans.
- An area off focus this year is to complete actions in the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Several events and initiatives are planned.
- The pollinator pathway steering committee now consists of seven members, many of them new to Ardsley and with young children. The team meets every week or every other week on Wednesdays from 9 am – 10 am. Frequency depends upon the activity and approaching deadlines.
  - **Action:** Carol to send Steve Edelstein the Zoom link for the next meeting on Wednesday, October 12 at 9 am.

## **2. Review of the CAC Annual Report for 2021/2022**

Attendees were asked to review the report.

**Action:** Eda requested of Asha and Steve that both the Strategic Priorities and

the 2021/2022 Annual report be added to the Village website and brought before the Board.

## **8. Discussion and Closing**

Asha, Eda and Carol attended the 2022 New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) annual remote conference on Wednesday, October 6.

The next CAC meeting will be Thursday, December 1, 2022, 7-8 pm via Zoom.