

CAC April 4, 2023 Meeting Report to Town Board

Jannelle Koszarek and I attended the Climate Action Conference where we heard many inspirational speakers describe activities happening across the Hudson Valley and the State. We are very excited to learn that there will be several new grant opportunities that would be a good fit for our Town and for the CAC to work on to present to the Board for your consideration. We have been in contact with Rosemary Wein to see how these new efforts can support the work she has already done. Jannelle and I have scheduled a meeting with her to discuss our approach to these grants in more detail.

We are looking forward to being present at the Milton Main Street Blossom Festival on April 30 where we will have an informational table about the importance of bees as well as information about the CAC and the Climate Smart Communities program.

Speaking of bees, this is a special note to those who are on zoom tonight or who will be checking the Town website. Now is the time that bees will be swarming. When people encounter a swarm the usual reaction is to overreact and try to swat them away. This only angers the bees who are working to protect the queen while they find a new location. As long as the bees are not disturbed while swarming, they will stay with the queen and won't present a real danger to any onlooker.

With the Board's permission, I encourage people who see or hear a swarm to notify the police and will ask Chief Cocozza to refer any calls about honeybee swarms to local beekeeper Don Smerdon who will come to retrieve the bees or find a fellow apiarian to do so. This will save the bees and help the person rid themselves of a local hive. I can and will provide that contact information with the Police Department.

We are in the process of developing a Facebook page to disseminate our work and help the public understand environmental issues. One of our members is generously donating his time to provide this tool.

We appreciate the cooperation of the Board and Town employees as we continue to organize and present the CAC and its work as directed by the Town resolutions and this Board. Danielle Cherubini has been especially helpful in posting on the Town website for us and I extend a public thanks to her.

We anticipate adopting a mile of 9W highway with the NYS DOT Adopt a Highway program to gather trash from the roadside, and to take a second look at how to reduce light contamination. We will also be pursuing building a pollinator garden and the possibility of additional tree plantings. Rosemary Wein and Howard Baker are giving us very good advice on this and it is another area for grant opportunities.

The CAC welcomes anyone who supports this type of environmental work and invite them to lend their interest and skills.

Respectfully submitted,
Mici SImonofsky, Chair pro tem