

Town of Ossining Board Town Hall

April 20, 2021

Meeting Transcript

Video Recording of Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cwe6JLCDE5g&t=3s>

Attendance: Supervisor Dana Levenberg, Councilmember Liz Feldman, Councilmember Jackie G. Shaw, Councilmember Gregory Meyer, Municipal Attorney Christie Addona, Town Staff Carina Scorgia, Budget Officer Victoria Cafarelli, Green Ossining Chair Suzie Ross, Sustainable Westchester Project Leader Lauren Brois, Sustainable Westchester Project Leader Claire Kokoska, Eagle Scout Candidate Jason Yules, Town Planner Valerie Monastra, Community Member James Blatt

1 UNCLEAR: Right.

2 Dana Levenberg: All right, everybody, it is 7:30, so I shall say good evening
3 and welcome to the Town Board of the Town of Ossining Town Hall
4 Meeting for Tuesday April 20, 2021. Please rise and join me for the pledge
5 of allegiance.

6 All: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to
7 the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with
8 liberty and justice for all.

9 Dana Levenberg: And “justice for all” will be the beginning topic of my
10 comments this evening, well, I would like to start to talk about the theme of
11 our Town Hall tonight instead before I dive into that. I want to acknowledge
12 the work of the jury on the Derek Chauvin case today, and also that of the
13 Minnesota AG Keith Ellison and the prosecutorial team. We heard that
14 Chauvin was found guilty on all three charges for earlier this evening. We
15 know this is welcome news for many of us in our Community and our
16 country, as we have watched for far too long, as others got away with this
17 type of behavior with impunity. So many were not held accountable for their
18 actions, this is a moment of accountability for a public servant, who did not
19 serve the public. And we know that the work towards making our criminal
20 justice system more equitable does not end with this verdict. We want our

21 public to know that the Town Board is committed to doing everything in our
22 power to making our community more equitable for all. We believe black
23 lives matter. Our thoughts are with the family of George Floyd tonight, we
24 know that no verdict can bring him back. We also know that this verdict will
25 elicit some very strong feelings from our community. And as one of our
26 many municipal boards, we want you to know we will be here to make
27 space for the reactions, the conversations and the learning that we will all
28 do around this tragic set of circumstances and the verdict that was
29 delivered today.

30 It is heavy. It is hard to go into the happy conversations that we want to
31 now have, but we are moving in to our Town Hall topic this evening. Which
32 is the overarching discussion of our Earth Week in the Town of Ossining.
33 And some of my announcements are geared towards that. Green Ossining
34 has put together a fantastic calendar of activities around town both virtual
35 and in person.

36 On Saturday Councilwoman Feldman and I joined the Ossining Parks
37 Habitat Stewards at Ryder Park to help support the growth of native plants
38 where we cleared invasives and planted new plants which can hopefully
39 outcompete the other types. We got a lesson from Donna Sharrett about
40 each of the new species and how pollinator friendly they were too. Big
41 shout out to Patrick Vipperman chief steward, all the volunteers, and our
42 Parks Department for their great work on Saturday, taking care of some of
43 the more passive areas of our parks. I also stopped by the Green Ossining
44 tent at the farmers market where residents can drop off their food scraps at
45 our Food Scrap Recycling Program.

46 The Green Ossining booth also has lots of helpful information they're going
47 to be out again this Saturday, about how to save the planet and save
48 money, at the same time. They were promoting our Grid Rewards program,
49 which is an app you can download to save you money and you're gonna
50 hear more about that tonight, as well as EnergySmart Homes and
51 Community Solar. And, as mentioned you're going to hear about all of
52 these tonight, a little bit later as part of our Earth Week centered Town Hall.

53 I know that there were also Stash the Trash events, I was supposed to go
54 to, and thank you again Councilwoman Feldman I think you lead one of
55 those, which was great and, unfortunately, had my second shot of my

56 COVID vaccine on Saturday, and it had it's a presumed after-effects on
57 Sunday and I - I was kind of on the couch all day let's just say. Yesterday I
58 participated in a lunch and learn where we heard from our friends with the
59 Cornell University Climate Adaptive Design Studio Program. The studio
60 was originally hosted in Ossining during the 2019 fall semester, and the
61 student-developed designs reimaged our waterfront to be more resilient
62 to climate change and sea level rise. You can see the students' final
63 projects at the Ossining Train Station from 5am to 10am every day this
64 week during the week. Also, you can see the video on YouTube that's on
65 our town website, and I think it may also have been on Facebook, it was
66 streamed live on Facebook, so that will also be available on Facebook.

67 On Thursday we will participate in another lunch and learn with Sustainable
68 Westchester showcasing some easy ways residents can save Green by
69 going Green. Many of you have already taken part in our evening webinars
70 about EnergySmart Homes. Thursday's zoom will also cover two other
71 programs: Community Solar which can reduce your electric bill by 10% and
72 the grid rewards app which can help you earn money - yes earn money - by
73 lowering your energy usage during peak hours. Visit the Town of Ossining
74 Facebook page for the zoom information or go to Green Ossining's website
75 www.GreenOssining.org and look for the April 22 events. Also, the more
76 people who sign up, the more we your local municipalities can earn - yes
77 earn - because there are \$5,000 incentives for promoting each of these
78 programs and getting signups so come on people help our earth and your
79 pocket box, you can learn more about all these wonderful little earth week
80 events on the Green Ossining website and, later on, during our meeting.

81 One last Earth Week shout out to the Instrument Drive at Mike Risko
82 Music, you can drop off and gently used instruments to be refurbished and
83 donated to organizations and children in need. You can contact the music
84 school or store to schedule an appointment to drop off those instruments.

85 Donation programs are not always considered when people think about
86 going green but donating items saves them from piling up in a landfill. And
87 on May 1 Greenhouses is going to be hosting a town wide tag sale to help
88 residents declutter their lives tech sales are great way to find much needed
89 kids clothing and household items without spending money at big box
90 stores.

91 Okay now for some non-Earth Day related information, the Ossining
92 Briarcliff Vaccine Angels reported this week that they have assisted about
93 250 people in getting the vaccine. The angels have collaborated with local
94 businesses to make sure vaccines don't go to waste. They are also still
95 collecting names of homebound individuals for the mobile vaccine units
96 which were put on hold, while the J & J vaccine is put on hold. But they
97 may be rolling out the two shots soon, for the homebound program. We're
98 waiting to hear from that and if not, we may have other solutions for our
99 homebound. So please if you do know somebody who needs a vaccine,
100 who is homebound please do reach out to our
101 OTownVaccineAngels@gmail.com, you can also call my office at 762-6001
102 or call the angels at 914-236-4567. It is so inspiring to see all the great
103 work these volunteers have done, and people are still signing up to help
104 every single day, so thank you to all of our angels, you are incredible. And
105 you're helping to get Ossining vaccinated.

106 The 2021 town and county tax bills are due on April 30 The easiest way to
107 pay is online via Xpress pay available through the town's website. You can
108 also pay via email or by placing your stamped envelope in a dedicated
109 dropbox at the Post Office lobby which gets delivered straight to our offices
110 and doesn't get processed through White Plains before delivery. Or you
111 can still stop by in person at Town Hall 16 Croton Avenue where the tax
112 office set up to take payments in the lobby between 9am and 2:30pm
113 Monday through Friday. If you have questions about your town county
114 taxes just give the tax office a call at 914-762-8790 or email
115 hperlowitz@townofossining.com. Our wonderful Tax Receiver Holly
116 Perlowitz will be happy to answer questions as will for staff.

117 Dana Levenberg: Before I wrap up my announcements, I would like to
118 share this proclamation in honor of monarch butterflies. This procl -
119 proclamation as part of the town's ongoing commitment to helping native
120 species and pollinators flourish in our community. A few weeks ago we
121 signed the National Wildlife Federation Monarch Pledge to raise awareness
122 about the monarch butterfly. Through our partnership with the Village of
123 Ossining we learned this week that plant diversity peaks at three weeks
124 between mowings of your lawn. And peak the diversity occurs when lawns
125 are only mowed every two weeks, which represents a grass height of about
126 four inches or so. We have a cute graphic to share that you can print out at

127 home that lets your neighbors know why your lawn is being grown to - to
128 maybe a little higher than they might feel comfortable with to protect bees
129 and other pollinators. Four inch lawns are also the tallest height, under
130 which grass should be kept to avoid ticks. The town has a proud history of
131 creating pollinator-friendly areas and protecting native species from
132 invasive. As I mentioned previously, the past weekend the Ossining –
133 Ossining Park Habitat Stewards and the Parks Department added more
134 pollinator friendly plants, many of which the town purchased, some of which
135 were donated from our stewards at Ryder Park. Also outside the Boat and
136 Canoe Club is a monarch waystation planted - planted for monarchs to visit
137 as they migrate south, which I know Councilwoman Feldman was
138 instrumental in helping with. We were also awarded a Buffer in a Bag Grant
139 for Sally's Swope Sitting Park this year, which will be planted as part of our
140 ongoing restoration anymore native flowering plant species to our parks. In
141 addition to the buffers that we planted at Ryder in 2019 which are also
142 pollinator-friendly. Our recent bee legislation specifically requires
143 beekeepers to have a food source nearby that consists of pollinator friendly
144 species as well, and we think all of those who participated in that legislation
145 and making sure that it was friendly to all. So with that Carina Scorcia,
146 who's been very helpful with our monarch butterfly proclamation as well as
147 a lot of the other initiatives that I mentioned. If you can just bring up the
148 proclamation and we can take a look at it and share with the public

149 [SCREENSHARE BEGINS]

150 Dana Levenberg: ...and I can see half of it so I'm just going to read it.

151 Proclamation in Honor of Monarch Butterflies: Whereas the Town of
152 Ossining is home to many native plants and pollinator species, including
153 the majestic monarch butterfly which has sadly experienced massive
154 population losses over the past few decades; and

155 Whereas, the Town of Ossining recognizes that human health ultimately
156 depends on well-functioning ecosystems, and that biodiverse regions can
157 better support food production, healthy soil and air quality and can foster
158 healthy connections between humans and wildlife; and

159 Whereas, pollinator species are in decline due to habitat loss and the use
160 of pesticides, causing species like the monarch butterfly to decline
161 significantly in the past 25 years; and

162 Whereas, butterflies are extremely beneficial, pollinating many cultivated
163 flowers and crops, and serve as an indicator species for the ecological
164 health of large geographic areas; and

165 Whereas, in December 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced
166 that the listing of the monarch butterfly as endangered or threatened under
167 the Endangered Species Act is warranted and the beloved brown and
168 orange monarch butterfly is now a candidate for protective measures under
169 the Endangered Species Act; and

170 Whereas, the Town of Ossining continues to explore environmentally-
171 friendly infrastructure, legislation, and practices, with guidance from experts
172 to best support local ecosystems and provide such benefits for our
173 residents; and

174 Whereas, the Town of Ossining renews its commitment to support local,
175 state and national efforts that protect, restore, and conserve habitats for
176 pollinators as demonstrated in our recent beekeeping legislation and our
177 planting of food sources for pollinators such as the monarch butterfly, as
178 well as foster a greater connection between residents and wildlife; and

179 Now Therefore Be It Resolved that I, Dana A. Levenberg, Supervisor of the
180 Town of Ossining, with the enthusiastic support of the Ossining Town
181 Board, recognize the wonderful work done by residents during Earth Week
182 to protect monarch butterflies and other native plants and pollinator
183 species, and encourage all residents to participate in community activities
184 that support and celebrate pollinator protection.

185 And I think that that's pretty much all I have for my announcements, so I
186 just add ask if any of my colleagues would like to add anything to that or if
187 they have any other additional announcements to share... And I'm going
188 to-

189 Elizabeth Feldman: Hi.

190 Dana Levenberg: Oh.

191 Elizabeth Feldman: Alright yeah, the Ambulance Corps asked me to remind
192 everybody that they have testing available for those who would like to be
193 tested. So what specific types.... They have... the antigen testing and

194 molecular testing available through their Facebook page or you can contact
195 them through their website and sign up for a test. So –

196 Dana Levenberg: Awesome.

197 Elizabeth Feldman: - there you go.

198 Dana Levenberg: Great. Thank you. Anybody else make comments on
199 anything? Statement, announcements, anything that you want to add?

200 [SILENCE]

201 Dana Levenberg: Okay, so with that before we get into the agenda, I would
202 like to remind everyone that tonight's meeting is a Town Hall Meeting, so
203 the format deviate slightly from our usual work session format. After each
204 topic we will open it up to the public for comments or questions and once
205 we get through our set agenda for this evening we're happy to hear from
206 members of the public on any topic at all. So for those of you joining us
207 tonight, please take a moment now to look at your raise hand button on
208 your zoom screen, so you can be recognized later when you would like to
209 make a comment or ask a question.

210 Alright, with that I'm going to start with the first item on our agenda, we
211 have a special guest tonight, a local Eagle Scout Jason Yules who is
212 interested in proposing a project at Sally Swope Park. And the good news,
213 it has to do with plantings I know the Board is looking forward to hearing
214 your proposal. Jason you're on.

215 Jason Yules: Hello, just want to thank you again for having me on I'm about
216 to present to my slideshow for my proposal for this project. [I] just want to
217 give a brief overview before we start basically I've been to the Sally Swope
218 Park - Park before and there's like nobody there, like every time I go in
219 there, like it's just very empty, and I feel like personally if we were to put
220 flowers there, it would kind of brighten up the place. So let's get into it...
221 just gotta share my screen.

222 [SCREENSHARE BEGINS]

223 Jason Yules: You guys can see this? Okay. Okay. So basically I plan on
224 creating and planting a flower bed and Sally Slope - Sally Swope Park. I
225 plan to do so because, hopefully this will attract people to the park. For
226 those who are unfamiliar with an Eagle Project, it is the final step in a Boy

227 Scout's journey. The goal of an eagle - eagle project is to help the
228 community, whether that being the elderly or just a park, which is what I'm
229 doing. The most common project being at Teatown. The next step, I need
230 for the approval process is a signature from the beneficiary, which I'm
231 pretty sure is Miss Levenberg. Then a signature from my unit leader, Mr.
232 Racz, the troop's committee chair Trish Morgan, and the local council
233 approval, which is Mr. Whiting.

234 I feel that these flowers will attract more people to this Park, and this will
235 allow for the community to have a place of unity and peace, I also feel like
236 these flowers will bring a sense of tranquility to the park. So this is the
237 space that Mario Velardo cleared for me. Hopefully, what I plan on doing is
238 having the flowers on this curve, so that it kind of like guides in the people
239 say 'oh look they're pretty flowers this looks like an awesome park'.

240 Dana Levenberg: Jason, can you just use your cursor - back to back up on
241 that slide and just use your cursor to show exactly which spot you're talking
242 about just.

243 Jason Yules: So basically here on the flat part, is where I plan on planting
244 the flowers and they're going to be five flowers that I will be showing you.

245 Dana Levenberg: Okay. Thanks.

246 Jason Yules: So the requirements for each flowers that I had to look for
247 they had to be deer resistant. They had to be native perennials. They
248 needed to have high to medium level moisture. And they had to be non-
249 intrusive.

250 So this is the first choice of flower that I have, which is the purple creeping
251 beauty phlox and in parentheses, will be the scientific name for it. So the
252 height for this purple creeping beauty is four to six inches, its color is purple
253 and it blooms in mid to late spring, and I like to add a special treat to make
254 things a little interesting, so this one actually attracts native - native
255 pollinators.

256 The second one is the butterfly milkweed which is 1 to 3 feet. The color
257 varies, but I am thinking of doing orange because I think that is the most
258 attractive color, for this flower. It blooms in late spring and summer and it
259 generates a watery translucent sap.

260 Third, one is the mountain mint, also on two three feet, green, it blooms
261 from July to September, and it is edible.

262 The fourth slide is tick seed, also known as coreopsis. It is one and a half
263 feet four feet tall, it's yellow, it blooms in the summer and it tends to have
264 long flower petals.

265 And the last slide is the white wood asters. These are two to four feet
266 they're white they bloom in August and September. And their special trait is
267 - well, first of all, they have heart shaped leaves on it's a little hard to see
268 because I got a blurry image here. And also, this is edible when cooked. I
269 looked it up on like two websites. I wouldn't, you know, I wouldn't like pick
270 these flowers and cook them myself but I'm that is just what I saw online.

271 So I organized by two different sections staggered gloom is when the room
272 according to from now to summer and staggered high is the order I'm going
273 to plant them in which is from smallest to tallest so. The purple creeping
274 beauty bring blooms mid to late spring the white wood asters bloom in
275 August and September the butterfly milk weeds bloom late spring to
276 summer the mountain mint blooms from July to September and the tick
277 seed looms just in the summer. And for height, I already went over this, but
278 um if you are interested, I will leave my email in the chat if you want to
279 know more about this.

280 Elizabeth Feldman: It's down again.

281 Jason Yules: It's down again?

282 Elizabeth Feldman: Not you, sorry.

283 Jason Yules: Oh.

284 Elizabeth Feldman: My internet's down.

285 Jason Yules: Well, thank you for listening. That is the end of my
286 presentation.

287 Dana Levenberg: Thank you so much Jason. That was a great presentation
288 and I am going to open it up to the Board first for questions and comments.

289 Jason Yules: Okay.

290 Jackie Shaw: Jason I just had a quick question: how large is the actual
291 area where you're planting from the picture I really couldn't tell. Like how
292 many feet, by how many feet is area.

293 Jason Yules: I'm not sure I went there to take a picture, but I didn't have a
294 ruler um I'm going to write an email to Mario, let me just write down this
295 question, so I can relay it to him.

296 Dana Levenberg: And while Jason's writing down that question, I'm going
297 to ask Jason I think you might have gotten some input a little bit on your
298 flower selection from a few people who might be considered experts, did
299 you want to talk about that at all?

300 Jason Yules: Um... It was kind of just I reached out to different people. I
301 reached out to one of our local boy scouts moms, who's in my troop. Um
302 gave me some advice I reached out to actually one of my neighbors who I
303 don't exactly know his occupation, but he helped me a lot too -

304 Dana Levenberg: Was that David Margulies?

305 Jason Yules: That is David Margulies yes, who you recommended and I
306 think, they basically they all just gave me a list of perennials and showed
307 like different pros and cons of each flower and I felt like these five were the
308 best.

309 Dana Levenberg: Okay, and I just want to mention that Jason met us out of
310 the park, one day, and it happened to be time when Carina was meeting
311 out with - them - out there with Donna Sharrett you're going to apply for a
312 Buffer in a Bag for Sally Swope. And so Donna was there, Mario was there,
313 Jason and his dad were there, and Carina. And so Donna also gave a little
314 bit of guidance just for everybody's own edification, about maybe some of
315 the things that you wanted to consider - when you're considering which
316 types of plants to plant and then you know, we had some additional
317 conversations, which then Jason went back and did his research and now
318 he's coming back with this proposal. So I'm not a good person to say 'yes,
319 these plants are great' or 'no' so I'd love to have a copy of your
320 presentation so that we could just get a little bit more input and I think it
321 probably would be good, also to know how many of each plant you're
322 planning to plant and also what the timing is, I think we talked a little bit

323 about that in terms of when you need to do it and how long you think it
324 might take.

325 So now I'm going to continue to ask my other colleagues, if you guys have
326 any other questions or comments.

327 Northern Wilcher: Yeah I just I'd like to ask you - is he going to have him
328 doing this?

329 Dana Levenberg: [UNCLEAR]

330 Jason Yules: Yes, I'm going to ask my Boy Scout troop for help, so it's not
331 just going to be me and my family. It's going to be other scouts. And that
332 will count for community service hours.

333 Northern Wilcher: Oh okay -

334 Dana Levenberg: Excellent.

335 Northern Wilcher: Well, I - I love flowers, so it sounds great to me.

336 Jason Yules: Yeah who doesn't love flowers?

337 Dana Levenberg: People who are allergic.

338 Jason Yules: [UNCLEAR]

339 Dana Levenberg: Sometimes they don't. Okay Councilwoman Feldman do
340 you have any comments or questions, I think you directed Jason to us to
341 begin with, so if you wanted to comment.

342 Elizabeth Feldman: I do, I am always happy – uh thrilled - when our
343 incoming eagle scouts choose one of our parks to do their projects in and
344 enhance our community. You know they're - they're such great, you know
345 budding community leaders, and you know, to have their work in our park
346 and chill that they've been thinking about our community and what would
347 best enhance it, always makes me feel really happy. You know the Sally's
348 Swope Park is dear to my heart. So I'm very happy he chose to work in that
349 park, and I think it's going to be a great project, you know and enhancing
350 our native pollinators is always a great thing.

351 Dana Levenberg: You don't have any -

352 Elizabeth Feldman: So Jason, thank you so much.

353 Dana Levenberg: You don't have any opinions about any particular
354 flowers?

355 Elizabeth Feldman: Hmm?

356 Dana Levenberg: You don't have any opinions about these flowers at all.

357 Elizabeth Feldman: Um, I mean it's a nice mix. I like purple and blue. Those
358 are all good the milk weed is of course going to support the but the
359 monarch butterfly. And that's great, you know, the more support the
360 monarch can get the better and I'm sure there are other native species that
361 will be there as well, but uh I like his color palette and his ideas, and I think
362 it's great.

363 Dana Levenberg: All right.

364 Jason Yules: Thank you.

365 Dana Levenberg: Anything else?

366 Northern Wilcher: [UNCLEAR]

367 Dana Levenberg: Yes.

368 Northern Wilcher: One more thing to say, because you will - I think you
369 asked him how many flowers are he - he that is very hard to – to say: how
370 many. Because you know it could be, if you put them six inches apart eight
371 inches apart you got to measure each time and you got a good...

372 Dana Levenberg: Planning. Yeah, landscape planning. Absolutely

373 Jason Yules: What I plan on doing is, I'm going to - right after I get all your
374 questions - I'm going to write an email to Mario and I'm just going to say
375 you know what's the square footage for the area you gave me. I'm thinking
376 of - so those flower - there were more flowers, but I think that those five
377 flowers were the best options so basically it's going to be a row of five and
378 then however much space, I have is going to be like I don't know like
379 maybe six - six columns just something along the lines of that but yes,
380 thank you.

381 Dana Levenberg: Okay gotcha. Anybody else on board with questions?

382 Greg Meyer: No, no question just a comment: I think it's a great idea and
383 really great presentation, so thank you.

384 Jason Yules: Thanks Greg.

385 Dana Levenberg: And with that I'm going to ask if there's anybody from our
386 public who would like to comment on this presentation from Jason?

387 Dana Levenberg: And I see that there is a hand raised, Mr. Blatt?

388 James Blatt: Oh hi. Can you hear me?

389 Dana Levenberg: Yes, we can.

390 James Blatt: Okay, I didn't know if I would type into the chat I like to thank
391 Mr. Yules for the presentation. And I particularly enjoyed Town Supervisor
392 Levenberg displaying the proclamation in honor monarch butterflies and a
393 special shout out to these. Just as a suggestion, perhaps it's been
394 discussed so I'm sorry if I'm repeating - I changed out some of the grass
395 which is a monoculture around my current home in favor of pollinating
396 plans like butterfly bushes, Russian sage, and blue hyssop, so the latter to
397 create a metropolis for a variety of our be friends so just a suggestion out
398 there and I could I can post this if I'm able to type in.

399 Dana Levenberg: You're - actually we don't have the chat function enabled,
400 but please do send me an email and it's funny one of the things that we
401 were kind of ruminating about - and I know that there's going to be some
402 pollinator work done at the Farmers Market this week, and I think there may
403 be Suzie you might be talking about that a little bit right, so there is a
404 project that's going on, and I think that they're going to be looking for
405 people like you, Mr. Blatt to please share your property and that it is
406 pollinator-friendly and to and to share best practices. So that we can
407 encourage our neighbors to do the same, so I thank you for taking that on
408 your - yourself and I don't know how I'm going to break it's my husband
409 personally that you know we have to actually mow the lawn every - every
410 two weeks, instead of every five or six weeks, which is better for the bees,
411 but you know I will. But definitely not using pesticides and finding different
412 types of grasses and not hating clover, dandelions is all also, good - good
413 stuff I think right, so thank you very much for those comments. And I'm
414 going to now ask if there are anybody if there are any other attendees who
415 wanted to add to or comment on Jason's presentation?

416 Oh okay well Suzie Ross you can raise your hand and comment, please
417 do.

418 Suzie Ross: Just wanted to say that it's really exciting and I like flowers
419 also and I definitely think that that park is going to look so much more
420 beautiful. Instead of driving by and wondering what's going - I know they're
421 doing a lot of work there, but I think your projects really a great idea and I
422 love it and I can't wait to see it. So thanks for thinking about the town that
423 way and wanting to invest your time this way

424 Jason Yules: Thank you Suzie.

425 Suzie Ross: Plus it will go on the pollinator pathway now.

426 Dana Levenberg: Exactly

427 Suzie Ross: [UNCLEAR] about that.

428 Dana Levenberg: Yeah that's right. So, again Jason, thank you so much, I
429 know that you have a couple questions to answer but we're very excited
430 that you picked an often overlooked park to - for your attention for your
431 eagle scout project, and I know that having those other volunteers from
432 your troop helping you will also bring attention to the to the park from other
433 their families as well and, as we do all this work to rehab the park and we're
434 hoping actually to make an ADA accessible as well and to encourage the
435 invasives to not continue to spread and to encourage more natives we're
436 going to be planting more natives as well to fill in all the areas that were
437 cleared. Having those really beautiful flowers right at the opening will be
438 very, very welcoming so we look forward to working together to figure out a
439 path of planting forward. So thanks so much Jason and we'll - we'll talk
440 again we'll follow up with emails and stuff like that, okay?

441 Jason Yules: Okay, thank you.

442 Dana Levenberg: Thank you so much, great - great presentation. Okay, so
443 on to the next topic. We have a presentation this evening on EnergySmart
444 Homes, Community Solar, and Grid Rewards from Lauren Brois and Claire
445 Kokoska, who are both with Sustainable Westchester and we are - this is
446 continuing our Earth Week themed agenda. They'll be presenting about
447 three these three programs, which were recently launched in partnership
448 with Sustainable Westchester and our Villages of Ossining and Briarcliff
449 and also with tremendous guidance and support from Suzie Ross and
450 Green Ossining, as well as the Sustainability Committee in Briarcliff. These
451 programs stand to benefit the residents of Ossining directly while helping

452 our communities and our state achieve our sustainability goals, so thank
453 you Lauren and Claire for your help shepherding these important programs
454 along and also Suzie. But I'm going to open it up to Lauren and Claire now
455 for to speak.

456 Claire Kokoska: Thank you so much Supervisor and everyone is so nice to
457 be here tonight. I'm Claire Kokoska, I manage the Community Solar
458 program here at Sustainable Westchester and as – as she - she said we're
459 going to talk about three of our programs, but first I am just going to share
460 my screen to get our presentation started.

461 [SCREENSHARE BEGINS]

462 Claire Kokoska: And for those of you who might not be familiar with
463 Sustainable Westchester. We are a nonprofit organization based in Mount
464 Kisco and we are made up of 44 – excuse me - 44 member municipalities,
465 plus the - Westchester County itself as - as a member. And we work
466 directly with all of these municipalities and with the County to develop and
467 offer turnkey sustainability and renewable energy programs to the
468 community, and not just residents, but also the municipalities themselves,
469 small businesses, houses of worship. We're going to talk about three of
470 these tonight, but just to briefly touch on the ones that we do offer:
471 Westchester Power, a lot of you might be familiar with our Green Energy
472 Supply Program. And that is complimentary with Community Solar, which is
473 a solar energy program that we're going to talk about a little bit tonight. For
474 electrification solutions EnergySmart Homes is a program that we're very
475 happy to offer. Lauren is going to talk more about that, and how to electrify
476 your homes with clean heating and cooling and energy efficiency
477 technologies. We have our clean transportation project, where we try and
478 encourage folks to make their vehicles electric vehicles and doing
479 everything we can to ease the way for that. We all know that our gas
480 guzzlers have to go, in time, and we're doing what we can to make that
481 easier, we have our grid efficiency programs, which includes Grid Rewards
482 which helps you earn cash back if you sign up and participate in that
483 program. We'll talk more about that as well, and our virtual power plant
484 program helps – it's in the pilot stage now, but it essentially helps some
485 people turn their homes into many power generators, and especially those
486 with solar panels on their homes and that's one that's really exciting it's all

487 about battery storage and we can't wait to develop that more. And we have
488 to always think about zero waste. And our Zero Waste Program does what
489 it can to help people learn about how to minimize our waste, what we're
490 throwing in landfills by what we need, and use what we buy. And we always
491 say that it's important to know that we encourage people not to feel like
492 they have to do zero waste perfectly all the time, but even if we're trying,
493 that is something and that's moving us all in the right direction.

494 So, to get us started tonight, I am going to talk about our Community Solar
495 program and the first two programs that I'm going to talk about we have
496 been working with Ossining and Briarcliff and the green teams - and Dana
497 Levenberg and Suzie Ross have been such wonderful supporters of these
498 programs and - and pushing them to the community and letting everyone
499 know about these two programs that are free to sign up for and provide
500 energy savings through renewable energy and energy efficiency.

501 So Community Solar is a little bit different from the way that we all
502 understand traditional rooftop solar to be. In traditional rooftop solar, you
503 have a house with just the right roof conditions and you install solar panels
504 on it and then your energy costs are lowered, but what we found in the first
505 couple of years that we had our solar program was that 85% of the people
506 that reached out to us interested in installing solar couldn't even install
507 solar on their homes, for financial reasons or because there was a beautiful
508 tree in the way that they - they didn't want to cut down or their roof just
509 wasn't facing the right direction,. And then it completely excludes renters as
510 well, so we knew that we had to evolve our solar program to include a
511 much wider swath of people and that's how we ended up launching our
512 Community Solar program in 2018. With Community solar you don't need
513 to have any panels on your roof or wires to your home and that doesn't just
514 include a home is in a house but also an apartment if you live in an
515 apartment or condo or rent. We have a Community Solar Farm - well
516 actually a number of Community Solar farms that someone is able to join
517 and, notably there's one Community solar farm in particular that we are so
518 excited to share with you all that is being built right in Ossining at the
519 Maryknoll Campus right by Ryder Road. It is - it's exciting because it's right
520 - right in Ossining but also the Maryknoll Sister of St Dominic are such - I
521 mean they do such good Community work and so marrying the Maryknoll
522 Campus and Ossining and renewable energy it's just it's just a really

523 beautiful partnership so anyway, I just wanted to talk about that for a
524 second. But with Community Solar -

525 Dana Levenberg: Claire? Claire.

526 Claire Kokoska: Yes?

527 Dana Levenberg: They are it's on the - it's on the campus of the of the
528 brothers and fathers where the - where the - even though the sisters right
529 across the street.

530 Claire Kokoska: Oh, okay, right. Thank you. So sorry about that -

531 Elizabeth Feldman: I actually did sign up for that.

532 Claire Kokoska: Oh that's great - that's great. So anyway, with Community
533 Solar, you would join the program and sign up to a specific Community
534 Solar Farm and your specific community solar farm that you join has lots of
535 your friends and neighbors that are a part of that Same Community Solar
536 Farm and as it generates solar power it goes directly into the local electric
537 grid that powers the entire community. And anyone who signed up to a
538 solar farm through the program gets discounts on their monthly electric bills
539 and I'll talk a little bit more about how that works in just a minute, but I did
540 just want to touch on the benefits of the program. New York State created -
541 built Community Solar as a model so that anyone anyone who signs up for
542 Community Solar is guaranteed to save on their electric bills. And through
543 our program we made sure that you save double what the state suggests
544 so anyone who's a part of the Sustainable Westchester Community Solar
545 program save up to 10% off of their monthly electric bills each and every
546 month. There is no installation of solar panels and no wires on your
547 property or on your home. It's free to join and you can cancel anytime at no
548 cost. It's compatible with any energy supplier, a lot of people that join
549 Community solar might have a third party energy supplier that's renewable
550 energy based and so Community Solar is just a really good way to double
551 your energy - your positive energy impact in that way as well. And you're
552 supporting local renewable energy, so Community Solar, all in all, is an
553 excellent program that really has no downsides at all.

554 And to talk quickly about how the solar savings actually works, every single
555 month if you're a part of a Community Solar Farm, you will earn a solar
556 credit and that solar credit is subtracted from your monthly Con Ed bill. So

557 let's say you have a Con Ed bill and its \$115 and you've earned a solar
558 credit that's let's say \$100. So step two is you pay kind of the new lower
559 total after the solar credit gets knocked off of your Con Ed bill, so in this
560 example you pay counted \$15 only. And then the final step in this is that
561 you will auto pay your solar farm for the solar credit you've earned at a 10%
562 discount. So if you've earned a \$100 solar credit then you pay for that, at a
563 10% discount and save \$10 for the month so every single month whatever
564 solar credit you earn you save 10% off of that amount and we make sure
565 that it's proportional, so the person living in a studio apartment who doesn't
566 use that much electricity saves you know they save might save a smaller
567 amount than a person in a much larger home or who uses more electricity.
568 But it all evens out so that it's tailored to your own personal electricity
569 usage and electricity bills, so we say it's like buying a \$100 gift card for \$90
570 and the point being you save each and every month as a part of
571 Community Solar.

572 And joining the program is also very easy, you would just go to
573 SustainableWestchester.org/solar click the blue sign up button. Select
574 which project, which Community Solar Farm in Con Ed territory you'd like to
575 sign up for. I highly encourage anyone to go for the Maryknoll Community
576 Solar Farm. And then you follow the steps along the way, that would
577 include having your Con Ed bill and billing details handy so that when
578 you're signing up you do put in your billing details, so that eventually when
579 your Community Solar Farm is giving you solar credits you're billed by your
580 solar farm using the billing details you put in when you signed up. Then you
581 type your name to e-sign and you're done. And you could reach out to me
582 at CommunitySolar@sustainablewestchester.org or call this number with
583 any questions and - and I am not sure how much time we have left, but I do
584 quickly want to talk about Grid Rewards as well.

585 So the Grid Rewards program is another program that's free to sign up for
586 and it's sort of a no brainer as well. Community Solar is a wonderful
587 program that supports solar development and provide savings to every
588 single person and household that enrolls. And then grid efficiency is the
589 next step, so we can build all of the solar and all the renewable energy
590 generators we like, but if we're just constantly using more and more and
591 more electricity. You know, we - we won't be able to really solve our
592 collective energy problem. So grid efficiency aims to make sure that we

593 limit our electricity usage and especially during times of peak electric use
594 when everyone in the community is using electricity and a lot of it. So it
595 creates a positive environmental impact, it lowers the carbon footprint of
596 the community, and then the Grid Rewards program itself allows you to
597 sign up for an app on your phone and you will get notifications during those
598 times when everyone is using a lot of electricity all at once and it'll say 'hey
599 can you turn off your - or lower your electricity usage?' and if you
600 successfully do that by turning down your thermostat or you know not using
601 your dishwasher or an electric oven then you'll earn cash back for doing
602 that. And so part of the reason why it's important to do this not only is - is
603 the cashback savings great for anyone that's part of the Grid Rewards
604 Program, grid efficiency is important because it leads to these spikes in
605 electricity usage, which I mentioned just a minute ago.

606 But if you see these red - red boxes here, those are only a few hours, out of
607 the summer and probably I think these are times when it hit 95 degrees and
608 we were all using our air conditioners, and at home with the TV on or and
609 the air conditioner and maybe cooking dinner, and all the lights were on
610 and maybe we're using our computers too. Whenever all of us are using all
611 of that electricity at once it's - it really strange the electric grid and when the
612 electric grid reaches its sort of limit, we have to turn – or Con Ed has to turn
613 on these dirty peaker plants to make up for that electricity usage, so that
614 we don't all of a sudden, try and turn on the next light and nothing happens.
615 So these peaker plants only come into effect for these several hours out of
616 the year. And they are extremely expensive they cost four and a half billion
617 dollars to operate every year in just New York State so it's - it really is a
618 huge financial issue.

619 But also they're heavily polluting. And they're typically in areas that are in
620 lower income communities. So the more we reduce our reliance on these
621 dirty peaker plants the better for a whole host of reasons. And that is where
622 grid efficiency and Grid Rewards comes into play. So Grid Reward's like I
623 said, is an app that you download on your phone you would go to
624 sustainablewestchester.org/grid-rewards and then it would give you the
625 option to download the app on through Google play if you have an android
626 phone or the app store if you have an iPhone.

627 And for anyone who's interested in signing up right now and checking out
628 the app you can scan that QR code with your camera on your phone and
629 then click the link that appears to download the app. And then it's the one
630 important thing is that you will have to have your online account ready
631 when you're signing up for Grid Rewards.

632 So you would download the app, open up the app and then connect to your
633 Con Ed account to the application itself within your phone. Most people
634 have no trouble doing it, but every once in a while it can be a little finicky,
635 and for that we have a dedicated support line through our partner logical
636 buildings, who helped - helped us build this program.

637 And once you're signed up for the app you would get a couple of
638 notifications throughout the summer during those times when the grid is
639 extremely strained and it is those types of peak electricity use and it'll give
640 you tips on how to reduce your electricity for those periods of time and,
641 depending on how much you lower your electricity use you'll get cash back
642 award from Con Ed at the end of the year - or at the end of the summer. So
643 again it's a free program to join, it's sort of a fun game we've had
644 colleagues who earned a couple hundred dollars back, at the end of the
645 season. And it's um - it's kind of fun - it's fun, it saves money, it teaches you
646 about your electricity usage and lowers our reliance on peaker plants.

647 And with that I'm going to end on grid rewards and pass it along to Lauren
648 Brois who's our Director of the EnergySmart Homes program. And Lauren
649 let me know if you'd like me to keep driving.

650 Lauren Brois: Oh I'll share my screen this way I'll click through –

651 Claire Kokoska: Oh, okay.

652 Lauren Brois: - the slides. Who wants to hear the presentation, where it's
653 like 'next, next next' right? So let me do that hi everyone it's nice to see
654 you, hope you're having a lovely evening. Claire thanks for covering the
655 Sustainable Westchester intro. So we're going to quickly talk about
656 EnergySmart Homes and before I do that, I just want to mention just as a
657 quick reminder Ossining is participating in the Clean Energy Communities
658 challenge, so the more people that sign up to participate in Community
659 Solar and Grid Rewards and EnergySmart Homes the more money, we can
660 help to earn both the Town and the Village of Ossining and Briarcliff too. So

661 if you have friends that you think Community Solar or Grid Rewards would
662 be a good fit for not only sign up yourself but help us sign up our friends
663 and neighbors too.

664 So a little bit about EnergySmart Homes, if you are looking for ways to
665 reduce your carbon footprint, but also looking for ways to save energy, in
666 your home reduce wintertime drafts perhaps make it more comfortable in
667 the summer. You can take a look at having a home energy assessment
668 and we are here to help customers and homeowners to figure out the right
669 way that might be the best pathway for them. So maybe you want to learn
670 more about home energy efficiency insulation perhaps your house could
671 benefit from an air source heat pump or maybe you're thinking about
672 looking at a geothermal or ground source heat pumps,. So we have a list of
673 recommended contractors that can provide all these different technologies
674 we offer a homeowner assistance and also assistance figuring out, what
675 are the financing options so feel free to contact us, we would be happy to
676 help.

677 And these are the four technologies that we're really promoting so just
678 going to move through the slides very quickly and give a shout out for some
679 of the highlights of about each of these technologies and we'll do that. This
680 is a slide of our partner contractor so in Ossining Town and Village
681 together, and Briarcliff as well.

682 We have selected a list of six partner contractors these contractors were
683 interviewed and vetted by our local volunteer committee that's working on
684 EnergySmart Homes and they are all here to help to home energy
685 assessments and site visits all the contractors on this page will do an
686 assessment for free, besides one. Healthy Home was charging for their
687 assessment, but all the others, offer a free assessment.

688 So home energy efficiency: so if you have really high cooling bills in the
689 summer, are really high heating bills in the wintertime your house may
690 benefit from things like air sealing and installation. And now, is a kind - a
691 good time to think about your home's building envelope, because there are
692 some good rebates from Con Edison and NYSERDA. There's rebates from
693 Con Ed for the average income earner between \$500 -4,000 on common
694 measures like insulation, air sealing, and windows. And for people that are
695 falling lower on the average income scale, they can tap into even more

696 rebates and incentives. So if you are a homeowner that receives enhance
697 star property tax exemption, or if any of these income limitations on the
698 screen sound like the situation in your house you can get a discount of 50%
699 of the cost of the project so that's a pretty significant rebate up to \$5,000
700 back.

701 And a next program called Empower is helping to serve people in homes
702 and apartments, so owners and renters. This is for people that are below
703 60% of the area median income. And they can get up to \$10,000 worth of
704 free home energy upgrade work and an additional benefit is a free heat
705 pump. So if you know someone that is receiving food stamps or is on a
706 fixed income like social security, they could be a good match for the
707 Empower program and we would be happy to help them apply and work
708 through the different steps.

709 Now just a couple brief words about the different types of heat pumps, so
710 the idea that we're talking about here is electrifying everything. So just as
711 Claire was talking about the importance of moving away from fossil fuels,
712 this is a great way to do this as well, so instead of thinking about replacing
713 your - your oil powered furnace or gas powered burner, you can think about
714 moving to a heat pump. And heat pumps are electric powered equipment
715 and if you are using an ENESCO or perhaps you have Westchester Power,
716 helping to supply green renewable energy to your home. And then you're
717 heating and cooling with this electric appliance that's much more efficient,
718 you are actually 100% fossil fuel free in your heating and cooling, which is
719 pretty cool.

720 So air source heat pumps of applications for people that have no ducts in
721 their home and maybe would consider ductless mini split. Or there's
722 applications for a whole home air source heat pump and there certainly is a
723 cost to moving to these technologies, just like there'd be a cost to
724 upgrading any heating and cooling system. But the good thing here is
725 there's a lot of rebates on the market, right now, so for a typical home in
726 Con Ed territory someone can get between \$10,000 and \$14,000 in
727 rebates. And there are some additional incentives as well from New York
728 State Tax incentives.

729 So ground source heat pumps, the biggest difference here is, you would be
730 drilling in the yard, and this is a good match for someone that has existing

731 duct work in their house. Or would consider installing the ducts. So again
732 it's a much more efficient way to heat and cool the home. And there's even
733 more rebates and incentives for ground source heat pumps there's a 26%
734 federal tax credit right now, that really can significantly lower the costs of
735 this project. Enough so that if you're thinking of putting in central air to your
736 home. You should take it down the geothermal route it's actually more
737 affordable to install geothermal system than it would be to install your
738 typical type of central air system these days.

739 And finally, heat pump hot water heater is just a lovely way to heat water
740 it's the most efficient way there's a \$1,000 rebate on that from Con Ed right
741 now. And certainly something that people are replacing more frequently in
742 their home, so you might have this on your list of things to do 'hey, we need
743 a new hot water heater' well want to think about perhaps doing a heat
744 pump hot water heater.

745 And I know we kind of ran through things pretty quickly, so if you're feeling
746 like you want to review this again, on Thursday - Earth Day whoo hoo - we
747 were having a lunch and learn from 12 o'clock to 12:45 and you'll be seeing
748 me and Claire there again talking about these different programs and...
749 excitingly on May 12 we're going to have our first event in all Spanish that's
750 going to be 7:30 to 8:30 and on May 20 will be hosting our virtual house
751 tour. So some people in the neighborhood that have done this work in their
752 home are going to be inviting us into their homes virtually. And showing off
753 their equipment and telling us how happy, they are in their home so...
754 These are just a little flyer for Thursday, you can even scan this little thing
755 that's on the screen right now, if you wanted to RSVP. And I think that
756 covers it so thanks everyone for joining tonight.

757 Dana Levenberg: Or sustainablewestchester.org/webinar I think I saw that
758 flash by.

759 Lauren Brois: Yes, that's right I - that's it yep.

760 Dana Levenberg: Awesome. Fantastic that is an awful lot of information
761 about how we can really reduce our carbon footprint in ways that
762 Sustainable Westchester's trying to make easier and easier, so that you
763 just sort of plug in and go. There's a lot of information to download I've
764 heard a lot of these presentations before. Many of you have not so I'm just
765 going to open it up to the Town Board to see if you have any questions or

766 anything that you think maybe needs a little bit of a clarification for the
767 public. Otherwise I'll open it up to the public, so open for the Town Board
768 first for questions, comments, discussion.

769 [SILENCE]

770 Dana Levenberg: and... is that one?

771 Liz Feldman: I [UNCLEAR] and here we go. I'm just super excited that we
772 have all these wonderful programs going on that benefit our community and
773 our environment, the same time. And I know Green Ossining Suzie Ross
774 and Sustainable Westchester have been partnering with Dana and the rest
775 of the Board um and it's been great. So thank you for all the work that you
776 all do.

777 Dana Levenberg: Thanks for that. And it's true we've had lots of support
778 and also a lot of support from - we've had both Victoria and Carina in my
779 office have been extremely helpful in continuing getting these programs off
780 the ground in Ossining and - and continuing them and helping share
781 information out with our public. So thank you for my awesome staff. Okay,
782 so hearing – yay! - hearing that - no other questions. Suzie did you want to
783 make any comments about the presentations before we turn it over to you?
784 Because otherwise I'll just open it up to the attendees if anybody has any
785 particular questions.

786 Suzie Ross: I'll reserve my I'll just wait till I come on.

787 Dana Levenberg: Fantastic, okay so with that I'm going to open it up to the
788 public if anybody from the public has any questions or comments or
789 anything else you'd like to add?

790 [SILENCE]

791 Dana Levenberg: We'll just look for your little hands to be raised. Virtual
792 hands...and... seeing none. Okay, thank you for participating in that, and
793 now - thank you for Lauren and Claire and Sustainable Westchester for all
794 the good work you do for our Westchester communities and really helping
795 to push the CLCPA - which I can't remember what it stands for, but I'm sure
796 Suzie will remind us in a few minutes - and really making sure that we do
797 our part here in our local communities in our county to start affecting
798 change. And affecting our own individual carbon footprints.

799 So with that I'm also thinking that we were extremely lucky to have Suzie
800 Ross here with us tonight, the creative mastermind behind 2021 Earth
801 Week. I've been telling the story a lot: Suzie was at the farmers market, this
802 weekend and I saw her and she's like 'oh my God it's so great to see you
803 here, but I, you know I feel like I've just seen you, but I haven't seen you'
804 and I really did not know what she was talking about. She's like you know I
805 haven't seen you for nine months like 'I see you every week, what are you
806 talking about?' But I really haven't seen her in person for nine months I just
807 like it really does be like it, I had no idea I literally didn't know just talking
808 about.

809 So anyway, we're so excited that you have really dreamed up an incredible,
810 in person and also virtual Earth Week for our community to celebrate. You
811 also chair Ossining 100 I'm hoping you're going to talk a little bit about that
812 tonight. Which is helping us learn about how we can take responsibility at
813 the individual level for own carbon footprint, as it contributes to the overall
814 community footprint. We're so grateful to Green Ossining for putting
815 together an incredible set of events for this entire week. And Suzie you're
816 here to show everyone how to plan out the rest of Earth Week by
817 participating in educational programs, as well as ones that make you feel
818 good and make our earth cleaner and that you can learn about this week
819 and then take on into your everyday life or the future. So with that I'll turn it
820 over to you Suzie Ross.

821 Suzie Ross: And thanks Dana and thank you Councilmembers. It's - it's a
822 great pleasure always to come and talk to you about the things that we're
823 working on. And I'm always grateful for the support that you've given a
824 Green Ossining I do want to talk about Sustainable Westchester very
825 quickly, because I want everybody to realize how very fortunate, we are to
826 have them as a partner in a lot of things that we're doing. Not every county
827 has that expertise and that assistance so Claire, thank you. Lauren has
828 been a partner for - this is the third program that we have worked on, we
829 started with the Solarize program actually we started with the program that
830 Lauren kind of worked on and launched which was really the Energy
831 Efficiency Program.

832 Dana Levenberg: Energize.

833 Suzie Ross: Energize Ossining, then we move to Solarize Ossining. And
834 now we're working on this program and Lauren has been a great partner
835 but she's also been an asset to both the Town and the Village on another
836 level, and that is getting us all these extra credit points for our Climate
837 Smart Communities. Her expertise has really helped and, again, there are
838 a lot of things that we could not do as a community if it wasn't for the
839 expertise of Sustainable Westchester. So I can't really say enough, I know I
840 can, and I probably should because we want to end tonight at some point,
841 but I really could go on and on.

842 I also want you to know that there's probably I think I think Lauren's
843 numbers today were about 10 community members per municipality are
844 needed so that we can - for climate smart communities - get \$5,000. I - in
845 the conversation that Lauren was presenting - I didn't mean to be rude, but
846 I just downloaded you can't really see it. I just did Grid Rewards so I'm one
847 person and, if I can do anything tonight, I am going to put a big ask out
848 there, there is something that everyone can do tonight on any of those
849 programs that were just mentioned. Grid rewards is - is a no brainer for
850 everyone - that is you're getting paid back by economy to - to basically use
851 less energy, we can all afford to do that five times a year. Community
852 Solar: renters this is your thing you don't have to pay for all the overhead
853 that crazy people like I have had to spend the expense and doing. It's there
854 for you and Liz Feldman just did it for Maryknoll. So -

855 Dana Levenberg: And condo – condo of owners too. If your condo have –
856 has [UNCLEAR] -

857 Suzie Ross: Yeah, yeah.

858 Claire Kokoska: And homeowners. Anyone.

859 Suzie Ross: Yeah. Of course, and Homeowners as well, so those two
860 things are no brainers for anyone who has not yet invested in - in solar on
861 their roof. And so I'm going to ask everybody on this board to do that this
862 evening, it takes 10 minutes or less. Grid Rewards 10 minutes that's how
863 long.

864 Dana Levenberg: Do you -

865 Liz Feldman: The re-

866 Dana Levenberg: Do you need -

867 Liz Feldman: The reason I did it with because I have beautiful trees and I
868 just could never get myself to get rid of the trees to –

869 Suzie Ross: Yeah.

870 Liz Feldman: to use for solar. I know a lot of people in our community feel
871 that way, they would love to be a part of the solar project, but they just
872 really love their trees or there's just too many, too, they have no sense. So,
873 hoping that we can get the word out that, you know, even those with trees
874 can be a part of it.

875 Suzie Ross: Yeah and whether it's you know saving money or looking
876 really to reduce your carbon emissions it's a win, win. We do have a
877 deadline on Grid Rewards. I want to remind everybody gets April 30 so we
878 don't have a lot of time and whether it's I'm making you feel bad about it
879 and I'm guilting you - great do it. It's important for our Community and I'm
880 not just talking about the \$5,000, we have to find ways to individually,
881 reduce our carbon emissions, and these are very turnkey easy ways
882 brought to us by our great partners at Sustainable Westchester.

883 So I'm here to talk to you about Earth Day go so um I am not gonna I don't
884 have a lot of show and tell I'm going to bring you over to the website in a
885 moment. I want to just start with, we felt that you know, last year we missed
886 out on our opportunity to gather at the river like we always do, and it's
887 always a kind of feeling that you know the spring is - is out and - and it was
888 quite sad to not actually have the event after planning so much. And so we
889 didn't want to miss out this year.

890 So basically, the Green Ossining team sent a note out to those who those
891 vendors, who had signed up in. And we asked if anybody was interested in
892 doing anything special for Earth Day and kind of you know, gave them
893 some ideas of things that could be done. And we expected, we would have
894 30 different opportunities events things of that nature. I am literally loading
895 things up every day we've had we have over 100 different events, activities,
896 offers from Community members and from different sources there's
897 probably 50 different people who have come up with ideas, some of them
898 are multiple - on multiple evenings some of them are on multiple days there

899 are offers such as IFCA. That is, you know go in and you know mention
900 Green Ossining and there's something special there for you.

901 So a lot of fun things - the Ossining Public Library, I mean there's there are
902 online experiences, there are in person small experiences. Fable is doing
903 something special. I really thought that I'd be able to drive everybody to the
904 website and not have to talk about these things, every day, but I think
905 everyone is starting to get a little maxed out with - with the like Dana
906 thought that she saw me and she didn't we all are starting to lose our sense
907 of reality. So these tactile things are very inviting. The OBCC, they're doing
908 you know open houses and we have - there are opportunities for people to
909 get out and do - do things. Clearwater is joining us tomorrow to do
910 [UNCLEAR] I mean they're so - so - whether you want, and we also have
911 somebody who's teaching people backyard compost so if you're not
912 bringing your stuff or food waste at the Farmers Market or Cedar Lane,
913 which is open and free to everyone, another way to reduce your carbon
914 footprint. And learn about backyard composting tomorrow actually no it's on
915 Earth Day so there's a bunch of other things that are happening. There's
916 cooking classes and learning how to eat healthier. There are discussion
917 panels climate as citizens climate lobby is holding one with Sing Sing Kill
918 and Good Choice Kitchen because of their business - sustainable business
919 practices. There are some really clever things: a story walk in Wishnie Park
920 that's sponsored by the public library, so please get to my calendar which
921 I'm going to show you in a moment.

922 Carina are you there? Yes, you are, thank you for being one of the
923 brainstorming people about figuring out how to get these events onto the
924 Green Ossining calendar. And I, by the way, I'm not doing this alone,
925 although it's feeling like I am right now but a couple of things that are
926 upcoming.

927 The Community wide tag sale is coming up, we did not think we would be
928 able to have it, but people are doing it, I think this is the most participation
929 we'll have - we've had so far. The deadline is this coming weekend on the
930 24th we have 30 homes across Briarcliff and Ossining that are participating
931 at as of now. I expect that we'll have more. A shout out to everybody who
932 participated in the largest community-wide cleanup this past weekend.
933 There were 125 plus volunteers.

934 We uh... Riverkeeper Sweep is also on the same day as the community-
935 wide sale, that is another great opportunity for people to get out and
936 participate in the cleanup of one of our most essential natural resources,
937 which is our river and tributaries and... Westchester Pollinators I don't want
938 to forget about talking about them. Westchester Pollinators lanch -
939 launched probably, about a year or two ago and we finally have a voice
940 with somebody in our community that's willing to kind of lead this. Margaret
941 Phelan, who I know - I think she works with the Jug Tavern. But she is
942 going to be at the Ossining Farmers Market this Saturday, and what will
943 hope to do is start to map pollinator pathways throughout the community.
944 So that's an exciting thing that's happening.

945 We are always at the farmers market every Saturday, thanks to the
946 partnership with the town and the work that Victoria did with the grant
947 writing. All these things going with Teatown – so many great people
948 working on so many things in this community, I am not doing this alone I
949 just happened to be the person talking about it but it's amazing and...Let
950 me bring you very quickly, do I - could - share my screen yeah okay?

951 [SCREENSHARE BEGINS]

952 Suzie Ross: All right, I'm assuming, you can see my screen? Yep okay. So
953 you're going to go to the Green Ossining website looks like this.
954 www.GreenOssining.org that's it hit the Earth Day festival, it will bring you
955 to this page right here, and if you scroll down there are a couple of things
956 I'm going to just change it, this is where you can click on here it'll bring you
957 right to the very same place so it's just easy enough to just go down to the
958 calendar. When I have you guys, I have to move you off my screen here...
959 Alright, so you go down, you can actually just type in what you're looking
960 for, if you wanted to see, by the way, this coming weekend on Saturday if
961 it's 60 degrees or higher we might see yoga in the park. So that that's going
962 to be a nice event, if we can do that.

963 So that's there but don't have to do it that way, we can just search by
964 events in chronological order, and you can see what's going on, and I am
965 I'm going to ask for an upgrade on getting my website to work faster. But
966 starting tomorrow starting tomorrow, there are a few events that will pop up
967 and you can look at this any way you want I'm just going to scroll down.
968 But, as you can see, you can just run through this or put a date in or click

969 on something that you know is happening, but you can't kind of remember
970 the name of it. Once you get in there, let me give a quick shout out to the
971 emerging environmental leaders that Kemi Pogue started with - at the
972 Roosevelt school they're doing some cool stuff. But you basically click on
973 that event and the information is there about where to go if it's an online
974 event that information will also be within - within the event itself if it's at a
975 location there'll be a map there, and all the information is within it it's a
976 pretty simple math it's pretty simple event calendar to use.

977 Dana Levenberg: Just want to say I don't think it's Roosevelt. Washington
978 school, is that what you mean?

979 Suzie Ross: Washington School yes sorry I'm thinking Roosevelt Square
980 but it's the Washington School, thank you for that. So... so much going on,
981 I feel like there was a couple of other shout outs, I wanted to give. But just
982 again a lot of community members I don't know if anyone's ever had the
983 opportunity to see Max's Arcade. And Max - Max is a student in the
984 Ossining School District that has been putting together for [UNCLEAR]
985 comes with recycled materials. He's doing these online now for everybody
986 to kind of - all the kids to kind of learn how to do it. Again that's in our
987 calendar. And just some really great things that are happening.

988 So I don't think I forgetting anything I'm happy to take questions. But I do
989 want to make sure that every under that everyone really does kind of
990 realize that that you know we're doing this we try to integrate the fun and all
991 that good stuff that you know that we can get the kids involved and get
992 them into but you know it's kind of up to us when it comes to the carbon
993 emissions part. And the EnergySmart program, the Community Solar, the
994 Grid Rewards, these are big things. Our largest carbon emissions comes
995 from our transportation choices and comes from our home energy and
996 [UNCLEAR.]

997 I also want to give one quick shout out to the Ossining 100 Carbon Tracker
998 which will help everybody kind of understand what their individual footprint
999 is. We are happy to walk everybody through that at any time, you could
1000 give us a shout out, we have open houses, we had one tonight. And we
1001 need to see more people participating in these things because we don't
1002 have a lot of time yet to make our lives on this earth in a very comfortable
1003 way before it's irreversible so it's serious but we're trying to make it fun for

1004 Earth Day so... with that horrify note, I will end, unless people have
1005 questions.

1006 Dana Levenberg: Thank you so much Suzie and there really is so much
1007 going on and we're so appreciative to all of the volunteers with Green
1008 Ossining and Ossining 100 and all of the other people who have stepped
1009 up and participated in this week last week long event. Okay, so I'm going to
1010 just open it up again to Town Board with any questions or comments.

1011 Liz Feldman: I'm super impressed that we have over 100 events, it was
1012 telling news 12 about it Saturday, when we were doing the Stash the Trash.
1013 I believe the Risko Music School is doing a make-your-own instrument with
1014 recycled materials event as well.

1015 Dana Levenberg: Yeah I mentioned that in the announcements.

1016 Liz Feldman: My computer keeps shutting down so I'm having a lovely time
1017 tonight. Anyway um... so anyway –

1018 Suzie Ross: Thanks Liz.

1019 Liz Feldman: - just a big shout out and thank you to all of the people, and
1020 all of the groups that are taking the time to show how important this is to
1021 our community and how much we really care so that's all.

1022 Suzie Ross: Thank you.

1023 Dana Levenberg: Anybody else on the Town Board?

1024 Jackie Shaw: Thanks, for all that you're doing Suzie. I – I - it's a just a
1025 whirlwind of activity, when we got the email from you at – at IFCA asking
1026 you know, do we have something creative we can do. We actually sat down
1027 and we started thinking about things in it, it made us think about things in a
1028 new way, so I know others were doing some cool and new things for this
1029 year for earth week, so thank you for that we had to like think about in I
1030 think we're doing some cool stuff at IFCA and obviously at other places. So
1031 thanks for making us think out of the box

1032 Dana Levenberg: Certainly, you know, or if go residents to join some of
1033 these programs too. To help them save money on their Con Ed bills would
1034 is also a great - a great thing Grid Rewards all of those things for
1035 everybody at IFCA. Okay anybody else from Town Board?

1036 Liz Feldman: I would also like to add that um you know this has been such
1037 a great success and so many programs are getting highlighted and rolled
1038 out that we may continue having extra events through the Earth Week, in
1039 addition to our wonderful Earth Day festival next year, please sure.

1040 Dana Levenberg: Sure, absolutely, yeah. And there are lot of lessons we
1041 can learn during this pandemic about ways that we can enhance our –

1042 Liz Feldman: Reach.

1043 Dana Levenberg: - people's - our reach, and - and participation by utilizing
1044 some of these remote resources that we've learned all about this in this
1045 past year plus. So that's absolutely true. So with that I'm going to open it up
1046 to the public is there, anybody who wanted to comment or have any
1047 questions from - from Suzie's presentation?

1048 [SILENCE]

1049 Dana Levenberg: Seeing none. Thank you so much once again Suzie. I
1050 really, really appreciate it and hope everybody does sign up to participate in
1051 events, if you haven't already done so.

1052 Next up, we are very happy to report that after just about a year with a
1053 general pause on grant applications coming from the State, funding
1054 opportunities are coming up again and I'm sure that that's also partially due
1055 to our Federal Government stepping in and helping to support our state.
1056 We have our town planner Valerie Monastra with us tonight from Nelson
1057 Pope Nelson Pope Vorhees to talk and walk us through the highlights of
1058 some of the current grant opportunities available to us, via the New York
1059 State Department of Environmental Conservation. As well as the
1060 Westchester County Planning Department which is actually a federal
1061 program that goes through the planning department. Then as Board we'll
1062 discuss some potential projects for applications. Valerie can please start us
1063 off.

1064 Valerie Monastra: Sure, thank you very much. So as Dana mentioned the
1065 state is starting to release some grants we haven't received information on
1066 the you know the yearly consolidated funding applications, yet, but what
1067 has been released, are some Hudson River Estuary Grants. As well as
1068 well, this is more on the federal level the CDBG program. So one of the
1069 things I just wanted to highlight tonight with the Hudson River Estuary

1070 program grants I did send you a summary of the grants, as well as the
1071 matches that are needed in the eligible - potentially eligible projects that
1072 could be submitted for and there's three different types of grants right now
1073 under that program: a stewardship planning grant which is really
1074 specifically focused on adaptation projects for climate change risks
1075 specifically dealing with a sea level risks - sea level rise risks. And riverfront
1076 education, which is dealing with tidal waters of the Hudson River and then
1077 river access, and this is really deals with access to sites for both boating,
1078 fishing, swimming as well as wildlife recreation. So the primary purpose for
1079 the Hudson River Estuary program grants is really focused on the Hudson
1080 River. So for the most part, I think the you know the town land mostly would
1081 be really focused on the Engel waterfront parks and potential park projects.
1082 These particular grants range somewhere between 10 to \$50,000 and they
1083 do require a 15% match.

1084 In addition, CDBG is coming through its three year cycle and one of the
1085 parks again that falls within the overall Low-Mod areas within the
1086 Town/Village of Ossining is the Engle Waterfront Park as well. That CDBG
1087 grant as - as this board is familiar with has a much larger funding source
1088 and can actually take on larger projects more than the Hudson River
1089 Estuary program grants. And so, with that we really wanted to focus or talk
1090 to the board about 'what are some projects that we might want to consider
1091 putting in for funding for both either Hudson River Estuary program grant as
1092 well as CDBG grant' really focusing on Engel waterfront park at this point.

1093 Dana Levenberg: So thanks so much Valerie and before I open it up for
1094 discussion, I think that we can all agree that these grant opportunities
1095 basically shout out for Louis Engel Park. As it's located on the Hudson and
1096 it's in a low mod area which basically are the parameters for these grant
1097 opportunities. However, I do want to point out that we've been hearing a lot
1098 recently through our comprehensive plan process, from our environmental
1099 advisory committee, through our REC advisory board, our Town Board
1100 other stakeholders, and our own staff that there are many, many projects in
1101 all of our parks that are needed to improve both the active and passive
1102 recreation environmental stewardship that are just as important and
1103 necessary. Unfortunately, those projects are not necessarily eligible for the
1104 grant opportunities available, right now, or they're not ready yet for those

1105 grants. So either they're not shovel ready or they're not in a place yet
1106 where we can act upon them to apply for grants for those projects.

1107 But there may be opportunities in the future to seek funding, further
1108 volunteer efforts, or to draw on other partnerships to complete these
1109 projects. So I wanted to propose that we consider undertaking a parks
1110 prioritization plan to identify projects that need to be completed and
1111 potential funding sources or other means of implementing these projects.
1112 That will give us an opportunity to put together the many suggestions that
1113 have come to us from various members of the public who have an interest
1114 in improving all parts of our parks and set us up for success for future
1115 opportunities as future opportunities become available.

1116 So Valerie's offered to help us with this prioritization plan and maybe
1117 Valerie you could explain to the board a little bit about what you think that
1118 would look like.

1119 Valerie Monastra: Right so in our discussions with these particular grants,
1120 especially the Hudson River Estuary program grant, you know it's and I've
1121 had numerous meetings with the Environmental Advisory Committee and
1122 then course the Comprehensive Planning Committee and we're getting
1123 public feedback for over the Comprehensive Plan as well as presentations
1124 that have appeared before you prior too from the Parks and Recreation
1125 Department, as well as a Recreational Advisory Board - and so what is, it
1126 what's clear is that there's a lot of projects there's a lot of potential projects
1127 within your parks. But one of the things that we're finding is that every time
1128 a grant pops up it's this little bit of a scramble of identifying what projects
1129 we were could be you know fit it into, we even have cost estimates, do we
1130 have engineering studies and what I thought would be helpful to the town is
1131 actually you know basically pulling all this information together right. And so
1132 intensifying, for example, like Ryder Park, what are the, you know, capital
1133 improvements that have been identified for potential active recreation, you
1134 know passive recreation. You know your stewardship projects and
1135 programs environmental restoration projects. You know, also maintenance
1136 projects or engineering projects that are not necessarily associated with
1137 active passive recreation, but could be like storm water projects or park
1138 paving projects. And so I think you know you have between your staff and
1139 all the different committees and organizations throughout the town there's a

1140 lot of ideas and a lot of concepts and I thought it might be helpful to the
1141 Town Board is to start pulling these different projects together and that's
1142 like the first step, and then the second step would be working with the town
1143 boards to prioritize what projects we really want to seek funding for and
1144 which ones, you know even this will also help you when you're dealing with
1145 your Capital budgets every year, identifying which projects, you want to
1146 move forward with the various parks.

1147 Dana Levenberg: So I'll just open it up to the Board for comments on that.
1148 And also comments on any of the, you know, any of the discussion that we
1149 had about which - which projects that we want to prioritize for CDBG and
1150 for the Hudson River Estuary grants.

1151 Jackie Shaw: I just had a quick question: how much are we using the
1152 presentation that we have from the Rec Advisory Board, where Pat kind of -
1153 I think, yeah Pat presented it - and they have like a list of things are we
1154 using anything from there to prioritize or at least list of different projects?

1155 Dana Levenberg: Well, I think that's exactly what we're talking about as
1156 being one of the inputs for -

1157 Valerie Monastra: Yes.

1158 Dana Levenberg: - this –

1159 Valerie Monastra: Yes.

1160 Dana Levenberg: larger park prioritization plan.

1161 Jackie Shaw: I just want to make sure.

1162 Dana Levenberg: We know that that's there and that we also had our own
1163 capital plan.

1164 Jackie Shaw: Okay.

1165 Dana Levenberg: You know, so the park – the RAB already had one idea,
1166 and then you know the - the capital projects that was a second idea –

1167 Jackie Shaw: Right.

1168 Dana Levenberg: - and so again, you know these different pieces come
1169 from different groups and the EAC you know they have ideas for - for trail
1170 for a trail connectivity plan we're hearing you know different things pop in

1171 the conference plan inputs from - from our public through that process, so
1172 all of those and there's a lot of great ideas. I mean there's tons of great
1173 ideas. You know I recently met out at the park to look at the pond in the
1174 back of Ryder which has come up a number of times, and you know a lot of
1175 these projects are very expensive and - and everybody wants to do them
1176 all at once and get them done right away and they're - they're expensive
1177 they're time consuming you know if we use our own parks department
1178 resources we can't do them all at once, so we need to you know, come up
1179 with a long - short term and long term plan and also look for these grant
1180 opportunities. I mean one of the reasons we put together the habitat
1181 stewards program was because we had a lot of interest in some of the, you
1182 know areas that don't usually get the type of attention that our - our fields
1183 and our play areas that maybe get more active use get. And, to be perfectly
1184 honest, that tends to be the area where our Recreation Advisory Board
1185 focuses attention on those more active uses of the park, so the back areas
1186 of the park where people, maybe walk the trails or walk their dogs or smell
1187 the flowers or just you know hang out don't get the same attention and they
1188 need it, they deserve it, but it's hard to get the attention when you need to
1189 use your resources differently, and you don't have a huge department. So
1190 having - being able to partner with volunteer groups or you know, we have
1191 the New York New Jersey trail conference. David Margulies had - is now on
1192 our EAC and he's been involved with that and they cleared the Briarcliff
1193 Peekskill Trail Way and he's very interested in trying to connect up some of
1194 our trails and the EAC's been talking about that, for years. All of these
1195 things, obviously take resources and whether it's in the form of volunteers
1196 it's in the form of you know just cash dollars or whatever we're looking to
1197 maximize the amount of money that we can bring in from outside sources
1198 so putting together a plan, where we start saying 'Okay, well, we need to
1199 have an engineering report, we need to come up with costs for each of
1200 these projects, including our Recreation Advisory Board projects that are
1201 real dollars and then figuring out how we can best utilize some of the grant
1202 opportunities are out there, or the other volunteer resources.' So, yes our
1203 RAB is going to be considered that's a long answer yes.

1204 Valerie Monastra: I also think it's - I also think it's - it's - I just wanted to
1205 point out that a lot of times you know throughout the year you might get
1206 smaller grants that kind of pop up or you know approach like Victoria's

1207 radar or my radar. And this would be have something that's again if we
1208 have like a document where it houses all the major projects that are
1209 identified the different parks, we can easily call through those and - and
1210 identify yeah this would be a great you know project for that particular
1211 grant.

1212 Liz Feldman: And I think it's a great idea to have it all, you know ready in a
1213 whole organized have a little waiting room, if you will, for projects for grant
1214 matches to come along and prioritize you know there's so many things that
1215 we'd love to do is being said getting the funding for them is a challenge, so
1216 yeah looking at having an hour it all organized and laid out is a great idea.
1217 The riverfront did you say, one of them, which the three estuary grants
1218 were?

1219 Valerie Monastra: They were for a stewardship planning, river education,
1220 and then river access.

1221 Liz Feldman: Okay, so stewardship planning would that be something we
1222 could get some the invasive species out of our rocks and kind of re –
1223 restrengthen that?

1224 Valerie Monastra: So the - the with the stewardship planning specifically
1225 they really focusing on and we - we might be able to and I'll take a look at
1226 it. Because there is some plan for conservation and natural resources, but
1227 the thing is most of it is really supposed to be focused on sea level rise and
1228 climate change, risks. However, what we might be able to do is under the
1229 riverfront access we might even be able to identify you know I think the...
1230 there has been some concept of potentially looking to open up that beach
1231 again. And so maybe as part of that we can also look at besides water
1232 quality, but also pull you know dealing with vegetation and trying to deal
1233 with some of the invasives and actually make the environment, a little bit
1234 more natural or native then what's existing there now as well.

1235 Liz Feldman: Okay, great. And we've been working towards getting that
1236 beach open for a while.

1237 Valerie Monastra: But I think one of the steps is going to take us reach out
1238 to Gareth I think he's been really spearheading some of that information
1239 and then to try to pull that together and potentially identify that as a
1240 potential Hudson River Estuary grant program. And then, of course, in

1241 terms of the invasives, we can also wrap that into if we move forward with
1242 the CDBG and upgrades to the water, excuse me Engel Waterfront Park,
1243 then we can also incorporate that into the overall project as well.

1244 Liz Feldman: Okay... Um yeah there's I mean there's so many projects we
1245 could do to enhance –

1246 Valerie Monastra: Yes, I know.

1247 Liz Feldman: - enhance the fishing... enhance...

1248 Dana Levenberg: Right, I -

1249 Liz Feldman: you know, fix up the ring wrap, fix up the... you know...

1250 Dana Levenberg: So I think that's all going to be part of our Engel Park -
1251 the bigger - the bigger ask for this CDBG grant and we did also just put that
1252 in for a community - community projects grant also through Mondaire
1253 Jones's office, so I know that we're not going to hear about those right
1254 away. We just found out that there's another line of funding. We put that, as
1255 well as the 133 bike lane connectivity project in and that might also be
1256 eligible for transportation front funding, so we quickly pulled together
1257 transportation grant application yesterday, which is the same project just
1258 with a different line of funding in case we are able to get funding for one
1259 project under one and one project under another. I don't know if that can
1260 happen because they're probably cherry pick you know however many they
1261 can give to each member but we can certainly try and spread the wealth, a
1262 little bit. So you know we're hopeful that we can get funding from through
1263 multiple sources and that's what we always are looking for. So we are you
1264 know CDBG again low mod income, this is basically we have Engel Park
1265 and we have our senior program that are eligible for these types of grants
1266 and we did actually get a number of grants for the senior program, the – a
1267 new mini bus, as well as which is hopefully going to be delivered in July, as
1268 well as upgrades to the kitchen which we're still hoping to hear back from
1269 our architect soon about that, so we can get those started and then, you
1270 know... We had applied for Engel Park master park plan funding through-
1271 through this program before we think we know what we have to change to
1272 try to get that moving and we would help have been able to apply for help
1273 from the Planning Department at Westchester County to help with some of
1274 the landscape architecture elements. We also have more information now

1275 from the county that Gareth Hoffman has been working with us on to help
1276 us figure out what testing, we have to do. We have a map of the - the
1277 outfall from the fo - the sewer treatment plant and we know that it's far
1278 enough away as well as being able to tap some of the Riverkeeper and the
1279 same high school environmental club testing that's been going on over the
1280 years. All of those can help us get the beach potentially open again so
1281 we're not sure if it's going to be this year, or if we have to use all the testing
1282 from this year to get it open for - for next year, but we keep trying and as
1283 soon as we can, we will work in that direction to try to get something. At
1284 least get you know have - have axe - accessibility enhanced at the very
1285 least, and have information shared about what is allowable and you know
1286 we don't really want to open the beach, obviously without everything in
1287 place and we can't open it without Westchester County allowing us to and
1288 that also requires that we have showers and things like that. So there's lots
1289 of pieces of the puzzle to put together as - as usual and we're continuing to
1290 work in that direction. And also the enhancements would include the fishing
1291 docks which need upgrades as well as other things, so we want to look at
1292 those all in context of climate change and the sea level rise. So hopefully
1293 we can we can plan for the short and long term simultaneously.

1294 Liz Feldman: So, with the lower income focus with the CDBG the grant is it
1295 only directed to areas that are tend to have lower income or can you do it
1296 for projects that would enhance the lives of people with lower income?

1297 Valerie Monastra: Right, so I can answer that so it's - it's both. But the thing
1298 is, if you are spurs are specifically focusing on populations that have or that
1299 you're going to help with low mod you really do have to tie it directly to that.
1300 Like that populations that's why a lot of times you have organizations who
1301 specifically whose missions are to work with low mod income populations
1302 on you know those will that's where you get that mission based type of
1303 CDBG application. So if there's if you have a particular project in mind, we
1304 can take a look to see if that would directly tie back to a particular low mod
1305 population and then which point we would be able to essentially seek
1306 funding for that.

1307 Dana Levenberg: You have to actually prove.

1308 Valerie Monastra: Yes.

1309 Dana Levenberg: There's a lot of hoops to jump through to prove that - you
1310 can't just sort of like take right, this is going to appeal to or you know, like
1311 even camp is kind of iffy - like so you can't you know we've tried to think
1312 about if we could try to use that for some of our other parks and I think that
1313 it's just not enough of a percentage of the time. So there's again there's like
1314 a lot of hoops – I don't know, Victoria, if you want to chime in and try and -
1315 and.

1316 Liz Feldman: That's okay I have an...

1317 Victoria Cafarelli: You often also have to collect like tax returns from people
1318 to document that you really are serving that particular population, it is like
1319 Valerie said primarily for organizations who usually have a lot of that
1320 information already documented and maintained. In case of it was ever
1321 audited so when you're focusing on an area it's a little easier to say 'Okay,
1322 the geographic location is clearly in this census tract that is low to moderate
1323 income population.' Then, then everything else, unfortunately.

1324 Liz Feldman: Okay, thank you.

1325 Dana Levenberg: So is everybody sort of in agreement that we're going to
1326 focus on for right now Engel Park for these upcoming grants and then we'll
1327 work on a bigger master grant park prioritization plan so that we can be
1328 ready for some of these other grants that are going to come down the pike
1329 hopefully nothing just - just in future?

1330 Northern Wilcher: I – I agree.

1331 Liz Feldman: Yup.

1332 Greg Meyer: I think that's a good idea.

1333 Valerie Monastra: Okay, great.

1334 Dana Levenberg: And fantastic, so thank you everybody so much. Our next
1335 step is going to be to work with Valerie on a plan to complete these
1336 upcoming grant applications, kick off our park prioritization plan, and the
1337 CDBG program requires that we hold a public hearing in order for the
1338 public to heard on our next round of applications. So we'll have resolution
1339 on next week to hold that public hearing at our first legislative session in
1340 May.

1341 I'm now going to open it up to the public, if you have any comments or
1342 questions or any of our panelists who are still on with us, and thank you
1343 guys for - for holding out. If anybody has any questions comments about
1344 this, or anything whatsoever, this is a Town Hall Meeting so feel free to
1345 comment on anything whatsoever. Now's your chance. You want to raise
1346 your virtual hands or your real hands or your zoom real hands - Suzie - feel
1347 free.

1348 [SILENCE]

1349 Dana Levenberg: and... I'm looking and I'm seeing no hands. Guys your
1350 virtual hands are tired. Oh, there are some questions in the Q& A that I'm
1351 just seeing. Oh, thank you for some comments from Gabby Hamilton she
1352 thinks that it sounds like a great program which I don't know what that was
1353 and she's looking forward to the programs, and I think that was since you
1354 just made that comment, I think that that's in relation to some of the
1355 upcoming work that we're going to be putting together for our parks and the
1356 great program that you were commenting on was probably all of the Earth
1357 Day festivities. So thank you for those comments and the answer to my
1358 question is 'was that true?' 'Yes, it was,' so things Gabby. Anybody else
1359 have any other questions or comments and or wanting to raise your hand
1360 and say something great? Okay, I am going to say that is 'no' but I want to
1361 thank everybody for your participation this evening we're so excited to be
1362 wishing everybody a Happy Earth Day - Happy Earth Week, we hope that
1363 everybody is going to step up and sign up for Grid Rewards, Community
1364 Solar, learn more about EnergySmart Homes and all of the other great
1365 programs and I'm going to try again for yoga the Saturday with Alicia at the
1366 waterfront it's part of our Mind Body Spirit Ossining program as well. And
1367 we've been doing a tremendous amount of work to try to step up to help
1368 our environment and do what we can here at the local level in the town and
1369 we just hope that you will also at home participate in all of these efforts.

1370 With that can have a motion to adjourn to executive session for advice of
1371 counsel, contracts, collective bargaining, and personnel?

1372 Northern Wilcher: So moved.

1373 Dana Levenberg: All those in favor?

1374 All: Aye.

1375 Dana Levenberg: Thanks again for joining us. Check out the great activities
1376 planned for earth week on the Green Ossining calendar and join us next
1377 week for our Town Board legislative session on Tuesday April 27 at 7:30pm
1378 via zoom. Have a great night everybody - oh wait, hold on one second
1379 there's one last Q& A... Oh that was from Gabby, 'Thank you and have a
1380 great night.' Thanks to you, too. Have a great night everybody.