

Topic:	Healthy Communities; Open Space Preservation
Resource Type:	Policy Statements and Planning Documents
State:	New York
Jurisdiction Type:	Municipal
Municipality:	Ardsley
Year (adopted, written, etc.):	1973
Community Type – applicable to:	Urban; Suburban
Title:	Chapter 14: Environmental Conservation Commission Legislation
Document Last Updated in Database:	April 16, 2018

Abstract

The village of Ardsley, New York adopted an Environmental Conservation Commission to help preserve and improve the quality of the natural and man-made environments within the community. The commission advises the Village Board of Trustees on features and conditions of the village insofar as beauty, quality, biologic integrity and other environmental factors are concerned and, in the case of man's activities and developments with regard to any major threats posed to environmental quality, so as to enhance the long-range value of the environment to the people of the village.

The commission conducts studies, surveys, and inventories then provides an annual report concerning the Village's environmental resources. They also maintain up-to-date inventories on all open spaces in public or private ownership within the municipality, including but not limited to natural landmarks, glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features; unique biotic communities; scenic and other open areas of natural or ecological value; and of the ownership, present use and proposed use of such open areas, so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the Commission for their preservation and/or use.

Resource

§ 14-1 Legislative intent.

The preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment within the Village of Ardsley, in the face of population growth, urbanization and technologic change, with their accompanying demands on natural resources, are found to be of increasing and vital importance to the health, welfare and economic well-being of present and future inhabitants and require forthright action by the governing body of the Village of Ardsley. It is recognized that the biologic integrity of the natural environment on which man is dependent for survival and the natural and functional beauty of our surroundings, which condition and quality of our life experience cannot be protected without the full cooperation and participation of all the people of the village working in partnership with local and state officials and with various public and private institutions, agencies and organizations.

[Type text]

Establishment of a commission for conservation of the environment is a necessary step in fostering unified action on environmental problems.

§ 14-5 Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the Commission shall be to:

A.

Advise the Village Board of Trustees on matters affecting the preservation, development and use of the natural and man-made features and conditions of the village insofar as beauty, quality, biologic integrity and other environmental factors are concerned and, in the case of man's activities and developments with regard to any major threats posed to environmental quality, so as to enhance the long-range value of the environment to the people of the village.

B.

Develop and, after receiving general approval by resolution of the Village Board of Trustees, conduct a program of public information in the community which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental problems and issues and support for their solutions.

C.

Conduct studies, surveys and inventories of the natural and man-made features within the Village of Ardsley and such other studies and surveys as may be necessary to carry out the general purposes of this chapter.

D.

Maintain an up-to-date inventory or index of all open spaces in public or private ownership within the municipality, including but not limited to natural landmarks, glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features; unique biotic communities; scenic and other open areas of natural or ecological value; and of the ownership, present use and proposed use of such open areas, so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the Commission for their preservation and/or use.

E.

Seek to coordinate, assist and unify the efforts of private groups, institutions and individuals within the Village of Ardsley in accord with the purposes of this chapter.

F.

Maintain liaison and communications with public and private agencies and organizations of local, state and national scope whose programs and activities have an impact on the quality of the environment or who can be of assistance to the Commission.

G.

Consult and work in conjunction with the Ardsley Committee for the Environment (ACE) to further refine, develop and improve the voluntary recycling activities extant in the Village of Ardsley.

H.

Prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets in accord with the purposes of this chapter.

I.

[Type text]

Obtain and maintain in orderly fashion, maps, reports, books and other publications to support the necessary researches of the Commission into local environmental conditions.

L.

When authorized by resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley, the Commission may accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise, property, both real and personal, in the name of the Village of Ardsley, as may be necessary to conserve and otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the Village of Ardsley. Such real property may be accepted in fee for land and water rights, or as any lesser interest, development right, easement, including conservation easement, covenant or other contractual right, including conveyance with limitations or reversions.

K.

Carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Village Board of Trustees.

§ 14-6 Annual report.

The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Village Board of Trustees not later than the first day of June of each year, concerning the activities and work of the Commission and from time to time shall submit such reports and recommendations as may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

Ardsley's Environmental Conservation Commission legislation can be found here:

<https://ecode360.com/5110642>

Chapter 14

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

GENERAL REFERENCES

Building construction — See Ch. 64.

Environmental quality review — See Ch. 102.

§ 14-1. Legislative intent.

The preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment within the Village of Ardsley, in the face of population growth, urbanization and technologic change, with their accompanying demands on natural resources, are found to be of increasing and vital importance to the health, welfare and economic well-being of present and future inhabitants and require forthright action by the governing body of the Village of Ardsley. It is recognized that the biologic integrity of the natural environment on which man is dependent for survival and the natural and functional beauty of our surroundings, which condition and quality of our life experience cannot be protected without the full cooperation and participation of all the people of the village working in partnership with local and state officials and with various public and private institutions, agencies and organizations. Establishment of a commission for conservation of the environment is a necessary step in fostering unified action on environmental problems.

§ 14-2. Members; term of office.

- A. The Commission shall consist of 11 members, of which seven shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees, and the remainder shall be ex officio members as provided herein.
- B. Persons residing within the Village of Ardsley who are interested in the improvement and preservation of environmental quality shall be eligible for appointment as a member of the Commission. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments except that a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of term of office shall be filled only for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- C. Terms of office shall be for two years, except that the initial appointments at the establishment of the Commission shall be staggered, such that three members shall be appointed for one year and thereafter for two-year terms.

§ 14-3. Ex officio members.

The following village officials shall be ex officio members of the Commission, who shall have no voting rights but to whom regular reports shall be submitted by the officers of the Commission:

- A. The Village Manager.
- B. The Village Attorney.
- C. The Trustee for Public Works.
- D. The Trustee for Recreation and Parks.

§ 14-4. Designation of Chairman; election of officers; records.

The Village Board of Trustees shall designate a member of the Commission to act as Chairman thereof. At the first meeting of the Commission, its members shall elect from among themselves a Recording Secretary. The Commission shall adopt rules and procedures for its meetings. It shall keep accurate records of its meetings and activities and shall file an annual report as provided in § 14-6 of this chapter.

§ 14-5. Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the Commission shall be to:

- A. Advise the Village Board of Trustees on matters affecting the preservation, development and use of the natural and man-made features and conditions of the village insofar as beauty, quality, biologic integrity and other environmental factors are concerned and, in the case of man's activities and developments with regard to any major threats posed to environmental quality, so as to enhance the long-range value of the environment to the people of the village.
- B. Develop and, after receiving general approval by resolution of the Village Board of Trustees, conduct a program of public information in the community which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental problems and issues and support for their solutions.
- C. Conduct studies, surveys and inventories of the natural and man-made features within the Village of Ardsley and such other studies and surveys as may be necessary to carry out the general purposes of this chapter.
- D. Maintain an up-to-date inventory or index of all open spaces in public or private ownership within the municipality, including but not limited to natural landmarks, glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features; unique biotic communities; scenic and other open areas of natural or ecological value; and of the ownership, present use and proposed use of such open areas, so as to provide a base of information

for recommendations by the Commission for their preservation and/or use.

- E. Seek to coordinate, assist and unify the efforts of private groups, institutions and individuals within the Village of Ardsley in accord with the purposes of this chapter.
- F. Maintain liaison and communications with public and private agencies and organizations of local, state and national scope whose programs and activities have an impact on the quality of the environment or who can be of assistance to the Commission.
- G. Consult and work in conjunction with the Ardsley Committee for the Environment (ACE) to further refine, develop and improve the voluntary recycling activities extant in the Village of Ardsley.
- H. Prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets in accord with the purposes of this chapter.
- I. Obtain and maintain in orderly fashion, maps, reports, books and other publications to support the necessary researches of the Commission into local environmental conditions.
- J. When authorized by resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley, the Commission may accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise, property, both real and personal, in the name of the Village of Ardsley, as may be necessary to conserve and otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the Village of Ardsley. Such real property may be accepted in fee for land and water rights, or as any lesser interest, development right, easement, including conservation easement, covenant or other contractual right, including conveyance with limitations or reversions.
- K. Carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Village Board of Trustees.

§ 14-6. Annual report.

The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Village Board of Trustees not later than the first day of June of each year, concerning the activities and work of the Commission and from time to time shall submit such reports and recommendations as may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

§ 14-7. Compensation.

The members of the Commission, including ex officio members, shall receive no compensation for their services as members thereof but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses authorized by the Village Board of Trustees and incurred in the performance of their duties within the appropriations made available therefor.

§ 14-8. Construal.

This chapter shall be deemed an exercise of the powers of the Village of Ardsley to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and man-made environment on behalf of the present and future inhabitants thereof. This chapter is not intended and shall not be deemed to impair the powers of any other public corporation.