

Conservation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2018
6:00 pm

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, Patti Kelly, Mike Harkavy, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Mike MacIsaac. **Guests:** Vernon Benjamin, Vivian Beatrice, Steve Wehr.

PE 9 Action Inspire and Educate the Public. Steve presented his template for a Climate Smart Saugerties website. Mary presented a draft sitemap. A discussion followed on various aspects of the website including: topics, content, features, photos, graphics, administration and overall organization. A logo design was selected. Vivian presented ideas for a Facebook page, issues to consider, and agreed to work on it.

Progress on Actions Patti reported on her progress gathering data on electricity use in government buildings and expects that her work should be completed in the fall of 2018. Vernon reported that bids for energy audits have been received. The town will apply for a grant that will fund 50% of the audit cost. The audit is expected to result in savings for the town by identifying ways to reduce energy use. The task force is awaiting information from Central Hudson on the inventory of street lights. Mary reported that actions completed and documented on the portal include 33 points. She estimates that the task force will accumulate 83 points once it has completed the actions planned. A discussion on when to apply for certification followed with July 2019 as the outside date. Vernon stated that four of the high-impact actions for the Clean Energy Program have been completed. Several ideas on a campaign to educate the public were discussed. It was suggested that an energy reduction campaign be considered as an action under PE 9. The need to begin work on a Climate Action Plan was stated.

CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Leslie Surprenant, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike MacIsaac. **Guests:** Vernon Benjamin, Jared Buono, Mary McNamara, Gail Porter.

Approval of Minutes The minutes of May 17 and June 21 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Water chestnuts and Milfoil Invasive Species The spread of milfoil throughout the creek from the beach to the Mudderkill and the spread of water chestnuts around the breach was described. Removal efforts attempted and removal options researched by task force members were explained. Jared Buono, the executive director at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Center, offered to host a meeting at the center with scientific experts and key stakeholders to develop a matrix system for managing the water chestnut and milfoil near the Village of Saugerties Beach with a goal of developing short and long term actions. Tentative dates were suggested. Jared will confirm day and time for the meeting.

Bristol Beach Update Vernon reported that the town will submit \$300,000 CFA application to fund a new road off of 9W and a trail to be created off an old ATV trail. The CAC will provide a letter of support for the grant application. .

NEW BUSINESS

Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) Hudson River Storm Protection Vernon reported on a meeting he attended regarding a New York – New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study. The goal of the study is to manage the risk of coastal-storm damage along the Hudson River from the New York Harbor to Troy. It was agreed that the CAC needs to monitor any proposed actions that could impact the Esopus Creek, the Hudson River shoreline and express its concerns in writing to the ACE.

Churchland Rd/Churchland Lane Solar Project Geronimo Energy has proposed a 20 MW solar-array installation on approximately 35 acres of a 96-acre parcel of land along Churchland Rd and Churchland Lane. The project is before the Planning Board for review.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.