

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

September 19, 2019

6:00 pm

Town Hall Rear Conference Room

Minutes

Attendees: Mary O'Donnell, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Skip Arthur, Mary Anne Wrolsen, Patti Kelly, Janet Asiain, Susan Murphy, Steve Wehr, Mike Harkavy, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike MacIsaac.

Climate Smart Task Force

CSC Certification Publicity Plans to publicize the town's achievement as a NYS Climate Smart Community were discussed. Ideas included: a presentation by a DEC official at an October Town Board meeting, press release to the local media, letters to the editors, a banner at the Garlic Festival, emphasizing forward moving actions as part of the publicity. Task Force publicity will follow official announcement by the DEC Office of Climate Change the last week of September.

Comprehensive Plan Input A review of Goals 10 and 14 in the Comprehensive Plan took place. Input on the Utilities and Energy Efficiency section and the Climate Change section of the plan was offered.

Clean Power Presentation The CAC CSTF agreed to cohost a presentation organized by Clean Power and Sustainable Hudson Valley on air and ground-source heating on October 26 at the Greco Senior Center. The presentation will include a section on weatherization, followed by a presentation on air and ground –source pumps technology with a list of vendors available. A discussion on having vendors present at the event ensued with an agreement that vendors not be part of the event.

CAC 2020 Budget It was agreed to request \$2,000 in the town's 2020 budget to fund Climate Action Plan implementation projects, community solar outreach, aquatic invasive species management follow-up, environment-related and climate-related community events. The \$2,000 amount requested is part of the \$5,000 grant awarded to the town for its achieving designation as a Clean Energy Community.

Report on Informational Session on Solutions to Climate Change. Janet, Skip and Elizabeth attended an informational session on September 8 entitled, *Solutions to Climate Change* presented by the Sustainability Council of the Woodstock Jewish Congregation. Skip and Janet reported that two initiatives were discussed: On a state level, The New York State Climate Leadership Community Protection Act was recently passed. Ross Gould, an attorney who focuses on environmental and energy law and policy and a WJC Sustainability Council member, explained why it is one of the most comprehensive climate change bills in the U.S., and what needs to be done in the next four years to have it implemented. On a federal level, The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763) has been introduced in Congress. Rachelle Gura, WJC Sustainability Member, explained what needs to be done to pass what was presented as a most effective climate bill.

Report on Solutions Journalism Kathleen reported on a webinar, *Solutions Journalism* that she participated in recently. The term refers to a movement advocating that journalists writing about the climate crisis provide solid climate information and include solutions in their articles. Solution journalism advocates offering hope by pointing to solutions that are working and advances that are being made and including this information in articles that may be pointing out problems.

Regular Business

Approval of Minutes Approved unanimously.

Eurasian Milfoil and Water Chestnut Management/Control The CAC approved the following recommendations to the Town Board:

- Establish an Aquatic Invasive Species Committee to work with the town on removal of the Eurasian Milfoil and Water chestnut from the Esopus Creek.
- Appropriate monies in the 2020 town budget to fund removal of Eurasian Milfoil and Water chestnut from the Esopus Creek.

Town Board Liaison Report Mike MacIsaac reported that the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee expressed interest in Saugerties plans regarding the Community Choice Aggregation program. Vernon Benjamin will be invited to attend the committee's September meeting.

Planning Board Report Carole Furman reported that Geronimo Energy obtained more land next to the parcel on Churchland Road. The project will still remain below 20MW and construction is expected to take at least two years.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.