

# **Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission**

September 21, 2023 Zoom Video Conferencing

## **MINUTES**

### **CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE 5:00 pm Start**

**Present:** Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Skip Arthur, Robert Irizarry, Nicole Roskos

#### **Approval of August 17, 2023 Minutes**

Mary moved to accept, Ken second. Minutes approved.

#### **Recommendation Re: Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Plan**

Mary asked the Town Board to update the open space plan and the natural resource inventory and that they hire a consultant. Upon review the previous consensus was not to stipulate a consultant. Mike said that forcing the consultant on the Board might be premature although the CAC could recommend it. Leslie added that it was too big a job for one person or volunteer. Mary suggested waiting for the completion of the Ulster County Natural Resource Inventory. Skip pointed out that the inventory could be worth points for the Climate Smart program. Mary suggested that grant monies might be available for the task. It was noted that, with the pressures of development, the Comprehensive Plan calls for open space and resources recommendations. Mary will make a draft of the letter to the Board for the CAC members to review. The renewable energy feasibility study is pending.

#### **CSC Re-certification Update**

Ken updated the comprehensive plan with sustainability elements. Skip worked on the outdoor lighting. For Social Media, Mary is in touch with Marjorie Block to post to the Town's official Facebook page. The solar installation is still covered by the Senior Center's installation. Nothing has changed on the climate resilient hazard mitigation plan. There are issues with the indoor lighting certification, but Mike has worked on the culverts which is worth 8 points. The renewable energy feasibility study is expired. Carole spoke to the greenhouse gas emissions from government operations. She has some data but is missing the gasoline and diesel usage. There are two parts to the performance action: One is from town operations, and one is from vehicles. Mary said to record the to mention 36% reduction for the operation, leaving out vehicles.

#### **Flood Resiliency Network Follow up**

Leslie volunteered to get the emails from the group for the committee. There was discussion of who could attend the events. That group includes Carol Leslie, Mary, and Elizabeth.

#### **Environmental Management Council report**

Leslie attended the roundtable on August 29<sup>th</sup>. She reported that Saugerties is a leading CAC in Ulster County. She said Climate Smart Community Certification was a top priority across the

board. Resource needs in those were updating local laws and policies followed very closely by municipal budgets for the CACs and for the environmental work. The top obstacles in achieving the goals of the CACs were volunteer capacity followed closely by technical skills. Mary added how important it is to have a Town Board as supportive as Saugerties’.

### **2024 Budget Request**

Mary asked Leslie if she thought the CAC should request additional funds for the pollinator garden. It was suggested a 10% hedge against price increases, or \$340, later amended to \$500. There is a speaker’s bureau that speaks to environmental issues. Nicole asked about a program for educating the community on the importance of trees. It was decided to request \$350 for a single tree planting. \$300 was allotted for a potential speaker event. Carole suggested \$500 for the greenhouse gas inventory.

### **Planning Board Report**

Carole reported approval of two solar fields. And at Fehr Brothers, they're expanding and putting more solar panels in. These are private enterprises. The Villa project is on hold due to new evidence that they are in proximity to the Lasher House.

### **Town Liaison Report**

Zach was not present.

### **Announcements**

Kathleen attended a webinar called Building Decarbonization Grant to support moving from fossil fuels. She said that the budget for the ice rink chiller has doubled to \$1,200.00 but there should be grants available. She attended another event called Green Innovation Grants to address flooding.

### **Adjournment**

Skip moved with Elizabeth seconding. The motion passed.

## **CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION 6:37 pm Start**

**Present:** Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Skip Arthur, Robert Irizarry, Nicole Roskos

### **Approval of Minutes**

Carole moved to approve the August CAC minutes and Skip seconded. Approved.

### **Announcements**

Skip still doesn’t have the opt-in/out statistics for the CCA.

### **Adjournment**

Skip moved, Robert seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:4i pm.

*Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary*