

# **Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission**

March 21, 2024, Zoom Video Conferencing

## **MINUTES**

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

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

#### **Approval of February Minutes**

Elizabeth Moved, Ken seconded. Motion passed.

#### **Clean Energy Communities Update**

Mary reported that Skip had documented the kilowatt hours the town gets from the solar farm and it would count toward CEC points. Although NYSERDA hasn't recertified Saugerties for CSC Bronze yet, once certified the town will achieve the 5,000 points that allows the town to apply for the \$100,000 grant. Mary asked members to look at CEC 3.0 for potential Clean Energy Projects or Special Grant proposals. Skip suggested applying the grant towards the ice rink's chiller. There were questions if the chiller would be considered a Clean Energy Project, like EV charging stations would be.

#### **CSC Must Revise Actions**

There are 9 items to be revised. Interior and exterior lighting were among them. Skip said that Central Hudson were the ones responsible for documentation. There were questions if the specifications were too difficult to obtain then the lighting application could just be updated. Mary will follow up on waste management. Skip will look into the public recycling programs, Mike will follow up on culverts and dams. Mary McNamara said the town was currently doing an inventory, including bridges and that would be helpful. Last was the Greenhouse Gas tracking system, Carole said she would be working on that.

#### **Community Climate GHG Inventory**

Rob was working on a Community GHG Inventory including the town's sewage and septic systems. He will reach out to the Assessor's Office to complete the survey. The Hudson Valley Regional Council has spreadsheets that we can use to plug in information as a tracking mechanism, including a transportation component.

#### **Community GHG Climate Action Plan Committee**

Mary called for volunteers for a committee to use the GHG inventory to address the largest emitters and create a Community Climate Action Plan. It would require attending several of the

Hudson Valley Regional Council Zoom meetings, but they are also recorded for later viewing. Another requirement is to identify partners who help influence emission reduction.

### **Repair Café Update**

The CAC will sponsor the event, helping to secure the Senior Center as the venue. It represents 4 points for CSC. The organizer is in need of a starter kit, \$54. Mary moved it be taken out of the CAC budget, seconded by Skip. The motion passed.

### **EMC Report**

Leslie did not attend. No report.

### **Town Liaison Report**

Zach was unable to attend. He sent a report via email prior to the meeting (attached).

### **Planning Board Report**

Carole said there was nothing significant to report.

### **Announcements**

Mary McNamara reported an event at the transfer station on April 20<sup>th</sup> to encourage the use of buckets for composting. She asked permission to use the CAC logo for stickers for the buckets.

Mary announced that she will be stepping down as chair of the CAC and coordinator of the task force following the CEC approval of the 5000 points to apply for the \$100,000 grant.

### **Adjournment**

Mary moved to adjourn with Carole seconding. The motion passed.

## **CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Present:** Mary O'Donnell, Ken Goldberg, Leslie Surprenant, Skip Arthur, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Carole Furman, Mary McNamara

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mary moved, Elizabeth second. Motion passed.

### **Memo Re: Development, Water Supply, Water Protection**

Mike expressed concerns about future water supply and developmental pressures. He noted that the last assessment of development and the effect on water supply was 2008 and that the village was putting pressure on the town in terms of water supply. Mike noted that the 2005 study was dealing with the aquifer and protection. The 2008 study was directed towards development. It was agreed that the CAC would advise the Town Board strongly to update the water study. Mike said he would be lead on the proposal but wanted input from the committee.

### **DEC Water Source Protection Plan**

Kathleen was unable to attend. The subject was tabled.

### **Bristol Beach Update**

Mike reported he and others had a meeting with the Palisades Park Special Unit for development of the park, starting with the easier projects like trails.

### **Zoning Regarding Events and Lodging**

There is a potential issue of properties being used for events and lodging. The committee agreed to be aware of the potential impact on the community.

### **Announcements**

Mary announced that the Public Service Commission is recommending reducing funding for NYSERDA for CEC, and asked if committee members wanted to make public comments. The deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. The proposed budget would be cut from \$40 million to \$16 million. Mary offered to draft a letter in opposition to the cuts to be reviewed by the committee.

### **Adjournment**

Mary moved with Skip's second. The motion passed.

*Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary*

Report from Town Board Liaison, Zach Hiorton, via email 3/21/24:

**Hit and Run:** As you may know, there have been arrests made in the fatality involving Starllie Swonyoung. The town is doing its best to navigate this issue, as one of the individuals who has allegedly been involved, is a town employee. Pending sentencing/trial, this individual is in full working status, as of today. In case you did not receive the information, local members of the community have organized a celebration of life on Behalf of Starllie. I have attached a flier to this email for your convenience and distribution amongst the committee.

**Public Hearing Dates:** Last night, the Board approved the first of two necessary public hearings regarding the expansion and updates of the King's Highway Water/Sewer districts. This will take place on 4/17 at 6pm, just before our regularly scheduled meeting. It appears that Saugerties will be receiving a substantial amount of grant funding with the help Senator Hinchey, to supplement ARRP funding to help complete these projects.

**Ceasefire:** It has been requested by several members of the community that the Town Board adopt a proposed permanent ceasefire resolution, as it relates to the conflict in Gaza. Many members of the community have spoken at the last 2 public comment periods, voicing their support for such adoption. The Board is continuing to convene regarding this request and review the resolution proposal that was given to us. More information regarding this will come.

**Harvester:** As we are approaching the upcoming Spring/Summer seasons, I have reached out to the Village to inquire about plans for the Harvester use, as well as get assurance that the machine is in fact in proper operating condition. I did request finalized data from last season so that this can be reviewed and compared to what the plans were for this year. I will provide the materials and updates on this as soon as they are given.