

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission
July 20, 2023 Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE 5:00 pm Start

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

Approval of June Minutes

Mary moved to accept, Mike second. Minutes approved

CSC Expired Actions for Re-certification

Mary emailed the list from climatesmart.ny.gov to go over expired actions.

There was a question if the Natural Resources Inventory was up-to-date and documented. Leslie would investigate.

The town's website links to the Climate Smart Saugerties website. Ken will check if our content can be posted to the town's site or if what we have is sufficient.

LED Street Light Inventory, Skip and Mike will work on this item, the Solar Energy Installation and outdoor lighting upgrades.

For the Facebook page, Ken said he was in contact with Anastasia Redman and Mike Campbell about the town's page hosting CAC content. He will check if this satisfies the requirement.

Elizabeth volunteered to investigate organic waste on the municipal level and will follow up on the residential component.

Kathleen will take care of the EV Charging Stations Infrastructure.

The comprehensive plan item will expire and Mary will look it up.

Renewable Energy Feasibility Study would be handled by Carole and Ken.

For the GHG Inventory for Government Operations Mary would investigate.

For the Climate-Related Public Event Ken suggested a speaker bureau. There was a question if the presentation at the library would qualify. Ken will help identify the requirements.

The government buildings energy audit by Arcadia is non-expired.
Energy Code Enforcement Training would expire 8/23. Zach has the documentation from Claudette in the building department and the inspector Kevin Brown has been certified.

For Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Mary and Ken will attend county sessions in the fall. At the local level Kathleen said businesses were resistant to charging stations and other initiatives. Carole pointed out we get our data from Central Hudson which is known to be problematic. She volunteered to crunch the numbers if someone else would provide the data. There was discussion of requirements for new developments.

Flood Resiliency Network

Kathleen reported on the Hudson Valley Flood Resiliency Network. Member communities share resources with membership requirements to attend informational meetings. She is currently focused on grant applications but has a copy of the new member agreement to apply. It was suggested that CAC members attend on a rotating basis.

Planning Board Report

Carole reported no significant impactful issues.

Town Liaison Report

Zach said there was no reply from the village and there was no data to report. For Winston Farm the data collected has not been reported. There will be public hearings about the development on Spaulding Lane and zoning considerations.

CCA Report

Skip said it was unknown how many have opted out. Jessica suggested the CAC write a letter to the PSC about the limitations in public communications. There is a bill in the state senate, S6899, to address the regulation. No word from Senator Hinchey about her support. The DPS needs to be pressured. The letters will be edited and sent out. It was agreed that the task force would support the effort.

Mary noted that in the CCA actions, for 18 points, the default action must be 100% renewable but the 50%/50% wording of the contract might not satisfy the requirement.

Announcements

Elizabeth questioned about adding members to the CAC / Task Force committee. The maximum is 9 for the CAC appointed by the Town Board.

Adjournment

Mary moved with Elizabeth seconding. The motion passed.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION 6:37 pm Start

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Kathleen Gray, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur

Approval of Minutes

Mary moved to approve the June CAC minutes and Mike seconded. Approved.

Announcements

Elizabeth is interested in the group Wildlife Watch. There is an old law, the Pitman-Robinson Act of 1934, where funds from gun sales would be distributed to wildlife protection initiatives. Elizabeth will forward information to Mary for approval,

Adjournment

Mary moved, Mike seconded. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary