

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

March 20, 2025

Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

Present: Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth and Stephen Shafer, Carole Furman, Linda Armour, Mary McNamara, Nicole Roskos, Zach Horton, Susan Weeks, Cora Mitchell

Approval of February 17, 2025 Minutes

The minutes were approved.

Town Liaison Report

Zach brought up the **Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (DWSP2)** and confirmed the Town's application was submitted by February 20. Ken noticed Saugerties wasn't listed and asked for clarification. Zach explained the application deadline was extended to April 4, which might explain why the application isn't visible yet.

Mike Tiano and others are listed as contacts for the Village; unclear if a joint Town-Village Committee exists. Kathleen Gray stated that Town Supervisor Fred Costello and Village Mayor Bill Murphy had discussed joint oversight.

Skip and Mary O'Donnell emphasized the need for clarity on whether the Town is included in the planning process. Zach promised to follow up.

The Garlic Festival's success with the **Zero Waste Program** was noted. Josephine from Greenway spoke to Skip about expanding the model to the Town.

Greg Chorvas, who administers the Town Parks and Recreation, expressed reluctance to be involved in the program.

Zach and Councilman Mike Ivino visited Greenway's New Platz compost facility and were impressed.

Town of Hurley is piloting a Zero Waste Program. It was suggested inviting Greenway reps to present the program to the Town Board.

There was discussion about the limited availability of commercial compost haulers.

Josephine and her team have offered a scalable plan for Saugerties.

Transfer Station Manager Doug Myers had been concerned about the budget implications of the plan. Zach believes the Town Board would support a presentation. Zach and others suggested adjusting transfer station fees to help fund the program.

Skip and Zach will coordinate a formal presentation with Josephine for the Town Board.

Community Preservation Fund (CPF)

Skip explained the program as a way to raise funds to purchase land for preservation through transfer fees paid by the buyer on purchases above median price (~\$500K in Ulster County).

Susan Weeks advocated strongly for the program. She has been involved in this since 2008. She explained that funds could support open space, watersheds, historical preservation, possibly affordable housing.

Mary McNamara noted Scenic Hudson supports adding housing.

Carole and Stephen inquired about revenue projections. Stephen said he would contact a realtor and county clerk for data.

Skip agreed to pursue a presentation from Marbletown Supervisor Rich Parete. Marbletown has had the program since 2019. The aim would be to form a town-wide coalition of interested committees, not to establish CAC as lead agency. It was noted that Tivoli, Gardiner, New Platz, Kingston among others have established CPF programs.

Earth Day Week (April 22–27)

Organized by Mary McNamara as a community-wide event.

Events may include:

- Plastic pollution talk at the library
- Speakers at the Orpheum
- Guided walks
- Drumming events
- Pollinator meadow tour offered by Leslie
- Repair Café tabling offered by Linda.

CAC tentatively agreed to co-sponsor pending receipt of event details. Upon final confirmation of schedule via email, Skip will distribute the event list once received from Mary.

Pollinator Meadow Report

Leslie is leading a maintenance event (weeding, mowing, mulching) this spring and mowing planned for early May following USDA pollinator guidelines.

Funds from the original grant are virtually used; Leslie has completed-and finalized the grant.

It was discussed holding a small educational/celebration event for the Pollinator Meadow in September possibly in collaboration with the library and local schools.

Climate Smart Community Task Force Report

Linda is identifying actions nearing expiration (e.g., PE1: partnerships).

Earth Day activities may count for CSC points; Linda and Mary O'Donnell to confirm.

CSC grants are usually a 50/50 match, but CEC grants offer full funding. Any possible changes in granting will require further clarity.

Linda and Kathleen will coordinate to cross-reference grant sources.

Climate Action Plan (CCAP)

Mary O'Donnell asked for final approval of the aerial photo view of the Town by Michael Nelson. The \$100 license fee was approved. The final draft will be circulated for grammar and content review before going to the Town Board and public.

Repair Café (June 7, Senior Center)

Linda will be organizing.

Needs:

- Additional knife sharpeners
- Ushers and volunteers
- Electrical/mechanical repair volunteers

Skip, Leslie, and others volunteered to help.

Glasco Wastewater Treatment Plant Grant

Kathleen Gray is applying for an Engineering Planning Grant.

CAC approved signing a letter of support to be supplied by Kathleen.

9W Development and Traffic Study

Carole flagged rapid development from Ryan House to the southern border of the Town.

There was a request for comprehensive traffic study.

Past SAMHSA study, done in 2007, included roundabout proposals. There is an issue because it is a State road under the jurisdiction of the NYSDOT. It was noted that development is outpacing infrastructure.

Wetlands Law Updates

NYS DEC revised wetlands law that is now closer to Saugerties' original (tabled) version. Carole and Elizabeth will send links to Skip for group distribution.

Announcements

NYSACC 2025 Conference will take place on October 24–25.

Location: Ukrainian Heritage Center, Kerhonkson

Theme: Innovations and Solutions for a Changing Environment

Saugerties is a member; CAC may attend or present.

Adjournment

Approved unanimously at 6:55 pm

Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary