

# Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

June 20, 2019

6:00 pm

Town Hall Rear Conference Room

## MINUTES

### I. CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

**Attendees:** Mary O'Donnell, Mike Harkavy, Skip Arthur, Janet Asiain, Leslie Surprenant, Elizabeth Shafer, Vernon Benjamin Mary Anne Wrolsen, Steve Wehr, Carole Furman, Susan Murphy, Mike MacIsaac.

**Climate Action Plan** Mary reported that fifteen copies of the Climate Action Plan have been printed. Copies will be available for the public to view at the Supervisor's office, Town Clerk's Office and at the Saugerties Library. Copies will be provided to department heads, Special Operations Coordinator, the chairs of the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Open Space Committee and the Comprehensive Planning Committee. A discussion on the role of the task force in the implementation of the plan took place. It was suggested that a yearly GHG inventory be conducted and a way for departments heads to easily update the inventory.

#### **CSC Certification Application Update**

The application is almost complete and Mary is awaiting documentation that the LED street lights and the off-street lights are operating. Mary asked the Hudson Valley Regional Coordinator to review the documentation uploaded on the portal and provide feedback. The GHG Inventory has been updated in the appropriate format as per the suggestion of the coordinator, a word document has been converted to a PDF file and a word change has been made. The application will include 20 actions completed and request for certification of 158 points.

#### **CSC Grant Program Recommendations**

Vernon reported that grants (50/50 match) are being worked on for the Ice Arena that include: an energy efficient chiller, insulation, and a generator so that the building can become an emergency shelter. Vernon also reported that there are many more opportunities for other grants, but they may not be realistic in 2019. It was recommended that insulation at the arena be a big priority. It was further recommended that the town apply for a Climate Smart Community grant to conduct a Vehicle Fleet Inventory and adopt a Fleet Inventory Policy. The recommendation is based on the recent GHG Inventory for Government Operations that demonstrated the Vehicle Fleet produces 45% of the GHG emissions from town operations.

#### **Bring Your Own Bag Legislation Publicity**

A discussion took place regarding publicity for the UC BYO Bag Law that takes effect on July 15. It was suggested that publicity regarding the law be shared with the Chamber of Commerce, and that CAC members help by distributing printed material to local merchants. Susan Murphy reported that the new "Saugerties Green Team" will be at this Saturday's Farmers' Market. There will be a "Plastics Eco Challenge" in the month of July with a website suggesting how

people can avoid plastics. People can go to the website and pledge to make a difference. See <https://plasticfree.ecochallenge.org/>.

## **II. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**Attendees:** Mary O'Donnell, Mike Harkavy, Skip Arthur, Leslie Surprenant, Elizabeth Shafer, Vernon Benjamin, Mary Anne Wrolsen, Carole Furman, Mike MacIsaac.

**Approval of Minutes** – approved unanimously

### **Old Business**

The question was discussed of whether to offer an informational session for the public on the recent efforts by the CAC working with UC Cornell Cooperative Extension, town and village officials to address the aquatic invasive species in the Esopus Creek. The consensus was that such an informational forum would not be productive at this time.

### **New Business**

A request from Melissa Everett, the executive director for Sustainable Hudson Valley, to participate in Heat Smart Ulster County initiatives was discussed. It was agreed that air and heat source pumps was a topic that the CAC would be interesting in co-sponsoring in the fall and that there needed to be more than one vendor in attendance.

### **Announcements**

There is a Clean Power Expo on how to scale clean energy at the town level. The meeting is at the Marbletown Community Center on Sunday June 23 from noon – 3:00 pm. Elizabeth stated the importance of methane reduction in reducing GHG emission.

### **Reports**

Town Board Liaison Mike MacIsaac reported that there will be a public hearing on Community Choice Aggregation on July 17 at 6:00 pm at the Greco Senior Center prior to the regular Town Board meeting.

**Bristol Beach update** Mike H reported that the town is going ahead with a Greenway 50/50 Matching Grant for access to Bristol Beach and emergency roads. There will be a trail from the parking lot to the water, and another path planned to the old brickyard. The question of access for people with disabilities was raised. Vernon reported that next year there may be funding to create maps of the trails and roads.

**Adjournment** at 7:58 pm.