

Conservation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2018
6:00 pm

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, Patti Kelly, Mike Harkavy, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Al Bruno, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Mike MacIsaac, Steve Wehr **Guests:** Vernon Benjamin.

PE 9 Action Inspire and Educate the Public.

Climate Related Public Event. Participation in Shout-out Saugerties was discussed. Based on the requirements for PE 9 actions, it was determined that participation in the Shout-out would not qualify for points toward certification. A discussion on what outreach campaign to plan to qualify toward CSC certification followed. Several suggestions were made including: a symposium, a weather/climate presentation, an energy expo, a Repair Café, an electric car promotion. Carole, Al and Susan agreed to explore these ideas and help plan an event for spring of 2019.

Website A discussion on content for the website followed. It was agreed to add a calendar for climate-related events, and information about what the town has done in the past to reduce greenhouse gases and electricity use. Susan presented information on plastics that she will forward to Steve for inclusion on the website. Steve advised that content be forwarded to him and he will determine its place on the site. Carole suggested that climate-related trivia questions could also be added to the site. Ideas for photos/images for the site were also discussed. Mid-September is the expected time to launch the site.

PE 3 LED Street Lights Skip and Mike H. reported on progress toward documenting the conversion of street lights and off-street lights to LED. They have the required data on street lights and off-street lights converted to LED and now have to put it into a report. Based on the percentage of lights converted, the action will qualify for 10 points toward certification.

CEC Designation Vernon reported that having completed four of the high-impact actions in the CEC program, the town has achieved designation as a Clean Energy Community by NYS thereby qualifying for a \$5,000 grant. A discussion on how the grant money could be used followed. It was suggested that the grant money be placed in a designated energy fund. It was suggested that the CAC pursue a request that having achieved CEC designation a town should achieve additional points for PE1 Participation in a National or Regional Campaign, Vernon will pursue the suggestion with Europa.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory Patti reported on her progress on the developing the inventory and will present it to the Town Board upon completion,

CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Al Bruno, Mike Harkavy, Leslie Surprenant, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike MacIsaac. Mary Ann Wolsen. **Guests:** Vernon Benjamin,

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the July 19 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Water chestnuts and Milfoil Invasive Species Mike H reported on the August 2 meeting at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Center. He described the options presented at the meeting to

address the milfoil and water chestnut in the creek. Floridone was successfully used in the Croton River and it was agreed that this option be explored. Leslie agreed to contact contractors to determine the viability of its use and a cost estimate.

Bristol Beach Update Vernon reported that the town will submit a \$300,000 CFA application to fund a new road off of 9W and a trail to be created off an old ATV trail. The CAC will provide a letter of support for the grant application.

Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) Hudson River Storm Protection Vernon reported on the New York – New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study. The goal of the study is to manage the risk of coastal-storm damage along the Hudson River from the New York Harbor to Troy. It was agreed that the CAC needs to monitor any proposed actions that could impact the Esopus Creek and the Hudson River shoreline. Vernon presented a draft letter to the ACE for CAC consideration, CAC agreed to support the draft letter prepared by Vernon and to express CAC concerns in writing to the ACE.

GlidePath Peaker Plant Lizbeth presented an update on the proposed plant indicating that power plant companies are looking to site power plants in Ulster County because it is easier to get permits because of the good air quality in the county. She reported that power plant siting is not addressed in the Zoning Ordinances of many municipalities.

Fossil Fuel Plants The CAC recommends that the Town Board issue a moratorium, for a specific time period, on siting fossil- fuel burning plants in Saugerties.

NEW BUSINESS

Invasive Species Dodder It was determined that the vegetation found along the shoreline at the Eve's Point area of Bristol Beach is a native plant and not the invasive species Dodder.

Participation in PRISM Leslie explained the different aspects of PRISM and the benefits of partnering with the organization.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.