

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

November 17, 2022 at 5:00 pm

Video Conferencing Via Zoom

MINUTES

I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Present Mary O'Donnell, Leslie Surprenant, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Skip Arthur, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Patti Kelly, Steve Wehr, Susan Murphy, Town Councilman Zack Horton.

Special Guest Senior Environmental Planner Adriana Beltrani.

Presentation on the SEQR Process Town's consultant Senior Environmental Planner Adriana Beltrani returned to the task force to continue providing specifics regarding the SEQR process as it relates to the proposed Winston Farm Development. Adriana discussed the scoping process, the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, the areas to be assessed in the Environmental Assessment Form, the roll of the Town Board and Planning Board in the process, and she explained the advantages of a Planned Development District.

Approval of October 20, 2022 Task Force Minutes Moved, seconded and approved

GHG Emissions for Government Operations 2021 Update Patti reported that she is still working on obtaining from Central Hudson the town's electricity usage saying that she is encountering difficulties obtaining accurate and complete numbers from Central Hudson such as for some town accounts Central Hudson has only eight months of data.

December Meeting Mary moved, seconded by Leslie that the December meeting be cancelled due to its closeness to the holidays. All approved.

New Members Mary acknowledged and thanked the three task force members Patti Kelly, Susan Murphy and Steve Wehr, who are not seeing reappointment, for their many and important contributions to the work of the task force. The need to have new members to join the Task Force was discussed.

Planning Board Report The matter of a draft sawmill ordinance was raised which would require a change in the Zoning Ordinance. The number of requests for changes to the Zoning Law was mentioned and it was suggested that changes to the Zoning Law should be considered as a whole rather than taking each one separately. Carole stated it would be useful to have a list. Ken will follow up with the town's planners.

Town Board Liaison Report Zach stated that a report on the Zero Waste initiative at the Garlic Festival was presented at the Town Board meeting. He explained due to the success of the Zero Waste initiative at the Garlic Festival, the town may consider a Zero Waste program "across the board." Mary will follow up to get a copy of the report to share with the Task Force. The town is considering going forward with a CCA program. Jeff Domanski has indicated his interest in making a presentation to the Task Force about the program.

Announcements Leslie announced that she will be giving her presentation, *Fire and (Melting) Ice* on January 19 at 6:30 pm via Zoom sponsored by the Third Thursday Environmental Series. Elizabeth announced that Janet Asian is planning to start a Climate Change Study Group to be held at the library. The first book to be discussed is *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* by Elizabeth Kolbert.

Adjournment Susan moved, Skip seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

II. CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Present Mary O'Donnell, Leslie Surprenant, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Skip Arthur, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Zach Horton.

Approval of October 20, 2022 Minutes Moved, seconded and approved

Aquatic Vegetation Survey Report Leslie presented the final report. A copy will be emailed to Town Board members and it will be presented at a Town Board meeting, a Village Board of Trustees meeting and posted on the CAC page at the town website. A hard copy will be made available at the library.

Modification to Ashokan Reservoir Interim Release Protocol Mary explained that the NYCDEP has proposed a new protocol for Ashokan Reservoir management. The proposal includes designating decision-making ability to the county for releases over 20 NTU of turbid water from the Ashokan Reservoir into the Lower Esopus Creek. The UC EMC discussed and opposes the proposal because the county does not have the resources or expertise to become the decision-making body.

Announcements Ken presented information about the Sustainable Hudson Valley website (sustainhv.org) that has a speaker's bureau of Hudson Valley residents who have expertise in environmental topics and are able to give presentations on various aspects on the climate and the environment ([Climate-Solutions-Speaker-Bureau-Brochure.pdf \(sustainhv.org\)](#)). He suggested that if the CAC wants to sponsor a series of presentations, this website is a good resource for speakers.

Ken also described a workshop that he attended virtually sponsored by the UC Department of the Environment. The workshop topic was the county's Natural Resource Inventory Project that will inventory and map natural resources throughout Ulster County and provide a tool kit for municipalities. Anticipated completion date is August 2023.

Kathleen announced that the town was awarded a \$38,400 Engineering Planning Grant to upgrade the Malden Sewer and Waste Water Treatment Plant, The total project cost is \$48,000.

Adjournment 7:20 pm.