

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

February 17, 2022

MINUTES

I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE (CSTF))

Meeting Start: 5:05 pm

Present: Steve Wehr, Nicole Roskos, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Elizabeth Shafer, Patti Kelly, Susan Murphy, Carole Furman, Mary O'Donnell, Kathleen Gray, Leslie Surprenant, Mary Anne Wrolsen.

Guests: Jim Mays. EcoAdapt Project Manager Deb Rudnick. Kathy Nolan, Mountainkeeper, joining the meeting in session.

1. Approval of January 20, 2022 Task Force Minutes: Approved with no changes.
 2. Special Presentation: By Deb Rudnick. EcoAdapt Program Funded by the National Science foundation.
 - a. Grant is to run series of workshops on climate adaptation in 8 different communities. Vernon Benjamin was one of 100 responses and we were selected to be one of 8 communities.
 - b. EcoAdapt will provide free workshops for our community to do a climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment.
 - c. EcoAdapt has done 4 virtual workshops to date. They have an opening sometime between November, 2022 and January, 2023. It is a study done by Virginia Tech Social Services students. There will be a registration survey done followed by a review done at 6 months and 2 year time frame. There can be 30-40 participants. There will be (3) 4 hour sessions with 2 final reports. Workshops will be either in person or virtual. If we are interested in participating we will need to alert Mary O. in the next few weeks.
 3. Winston Farm Development Proposal Report
 - a. Skip Arthur and Mike Harkavy – co chairs of the WF Development Committee
 - b. The goal of the committee is to support the sustainable development of the Winston Farm, with emphasis on limiting increases to the carbon footprint, while protecting wildlife and natural resources.
 - c. Skip sent to the Task Force and CAC on 2.24.2022 a list of issues and a page of resources for those issues. See Addendum to the minutes. General issues discussed were:
 1. Water, aquifer and sewage
 2. NY Stretch Code not adopted yet by Town. Encourage early adoption.
 3. Propose Cluster Development – preservation of open space
 4. A definition of open space needs to be determined.
 5. Protection of historical and archaeological sites.
 6. Zoning issues
- Mary moved to establish the Winston Farm Development Committee; seconded by Patti. AGREED. Skip, Mike, Eliz, Carole, Leslie, Nicole, Jim will serve on this committee. Carole will be liaison to the Planning Board.
- d. Kathy Nolan, Catskill Mountainkeeper joined the meeting.
 1. Suggested Mountainkeeper could provide consultants for reviewing the Winston Farm Project. kathy@catskillmountainkeeper.org
 - e. Reviewed Denier Car Wash Proposal which has been before the Planning Board. Right now zoning change was denied.
4. CEC \$5000 Grant Award Project Update.

Greg Chorvas interested in using grant money for LED light fixtures at the Senior Center

- a. Carole Furman brought up the idea suggested by Patti at last month's meeting to use the money for replacing kitchen appliances at the Greco Center. K. Gray concurred that G, Chorvas already has the money allocated in his budget for the LED lights. Mary will discuss with Greg about using the grant money for the appliances.
- 5. New York State Stretch Code
 - a. Agreed that the Town should be an early adopter of this code. Last month Z. Horton had agreed to review with Town Board and hold educational workshops with local contractors and others.
- 6. CAP Annual Report Update: Patti reported that she has gotten the figures for gas, diesel, some figures for the propane. Only electric and natural gas needed. Has not gotten a response to her request about streetlights. Greenhouse Gas analysis is so important.
- 7. Town Board Liaison Report
 - a. Z. Horton not available
- 8. Planning Board Report
 - a. Elna Magnetics Expansion: C. Furman had advocated to provide EV charging stations, solar on buildings, planting of shade trees. Engineer had not thought of these suggestions and will bring to the owner.
- 9. Announcements Decision to purchase a tree from donations by our members as a memorial for Fred Costello's father to be planted in a place of Fred's family's choosing. Mary will follow up with an email so members can indicate their donation amount. Goal is \$300. Mary also suggested that we include a plaque.
- 10. Discussion ensued regarding engaging residents to opt into CCA given the spike in CH rates.
- 11. Adjournment: 6:32 p.m. Patti moved. Seconded by Susan. Approved

II. CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Present: Mike Harkavy, Mary O' Donnell, Carole Furman, Elizabeth Shafer, Nicole Roskos, Skip Arthur, Mary Anne Wrolsen, Leslie Suprenant.

Guest: Kathy Nolan, Jim Mays.

Approval of January 20, 2022 minutes: Approved without changes

- 1. NYS Urban Forestry Council Quick Start Grant Program Application.
 - a. Nicole wrote up tree policy and gave it to Carole F for review from Saugerties Planning Board perspective.
 - b. Nicole presented information about The Quick Start Grant Program, a program that provides up to \$1,000 for tree planting. Nicole will file the application for the grant to provide (3) 8' American Linden Basswood trees to be installed at the soccer field near ice skating rink. Nicole expects to hear by the end of the month if the grant application is approved.
- 2. Ulster County Arbor Day Tree Planting Application:
 - a. Nicole R. will complete a 2022 Ulster County Arbor Day Tree Planting Application. The number and size of trees awarded per project will depend on number of projects supported and available resources. Trees supplied will be native to the region
- 3. Bee City USA Report Pollinator Gardens:

Elizabeth S. presented her report via email noting that her neighbor, Stefan Yarabek, a landscape gardener, has offered to help install a pollinator garden. Her report included contact information for Drew Toher dtoher@beyondpesticides.org who is a very helpful person and available to give talks on the importance of getting toxic pesticides out of our ecosystem.

Evan Abrahamson evan@landscapeinteractions.com who is an ecological landscaper who also gives talks on the importance of biodiversity and pollinators and designs municipal pollinator action plans.

- a. Locations discussed. Elizabeth's report suggested the library and Seamon Park as possible locations. A location in the Town as opposed to the Village was preferred. Leslie S. suggested behind the high school parking lot. She would reach out to the superintendent to see if that would be acceptable.
 - b. It would require about ½ acre to 2 acres. Planting a single species in clusters of 25 feet. There would be no timeline involved. It would be a drip irrigation garden.
4. Milfoil Harvesting Update:
- a. Want to review schedule that Village uses, where they plan to do the harvestin,; how often and how effective.
 - b. It was suggested that Z.Horton, our Town Board liaison could check in with the Village Board to see what their plan is for this coming season.
 - c. Leslie S. offered to do another aquatic invasive species study. She did the last one two years ago.
5. Ashokan Reservoir Water Releases Update
- a. Kathy Nolan represented both Catskill Mountainkeeper and Catskill Riverkeeper.
 - b. She discussed that the EIS and scoping document should also be addressing the Upper Esopus above the reservoir.
 - c. Stream bank stabilization is effective in helping reduce turbidity or NTUs (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)
 - d. The water entering the reservoir has been at 25 units (can't see thru the water)
 - i. Improving by 10-15 units will address impacts on communities downstream
 - e. Need to address interim release protocols.
 - f. DEC should address drinking water for other communities. Esopus may be closest community to get water from Hudson River.
 - g. The issue for the communities: Releasing water to prevent flooding at the reservoir versus turbidity downstream
6. Announcement: None
7. Adjournment: 7:04 pm. Skip moved. Seconded by Carole. Approved.

ADDENDUM

Winston Farm Issues as per 02.24.2022 Email

Adherence to the Saugerties Comprehensive Plan regarding land use
Supporting renewable energy sources
Encouraging energy-efficient building practices
Principal Aquifer and groundwater protection
Preservation of open space
Protection of the Beaverkill
Protection of wetlands and flood plain
Waste water and sewage treatment
Storm water runoff & impervious surfaces
Preservation of historical and archeological sites
Protection of endangered species
Limitation of deforestation
Preservation of view sheds
Access to public use

Resources for Evaluation Criteria:

Town Comprehensive Plan
Aquifer and Sensitive Overlays
NYRWA Ground water Studies (2005+?)
NYS Stretch Codes
Town Open Space Plan
LEEDS Building Guides

