

Conservation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2018
6:00 pm

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, Patti Kelly, Mike Harkavy, Carole Furman, Elizabeth Shafer, Susan Murphy, Leslie Surprenant, Mike MacIsaac, Steve Wehr, Vivian Beatrice, Virginia Luppino. Mary Anne Wrolsen, Patrick Wadden.

Guests: Vernon Benjamin, Jim Mays.

Susan presented an update on Skip Arthur's progress in Rehab.

Budget It was agreed to add the question of a budget for 2109 to the agenda. A discussion on projecting budgetary needs for the task force's work was difficult to determine at this time. It was agreed that the allocation of \$700 would be requested for 2019.

Website Mary reported that the press release was sent to and was included in the Saugerties Times and the Daily Freeman. The link to the site was sent to our county legislators, the UC Environmental Management Council, Solarize Hudson Valley and a number of email contacts.

GHG Inventory Patti continues to work on the inventory.

PE 3 LED Off Street Lights Mike H. reported that he met with Skip and they are ready to write up the report and present a draft report at the October meeting.

PE 9 Climate-related Public Event Patti suggested a Climate Smart Street Fair in the spring. Several ideas were proposed: EV car demo, heat pumps information, energy efficient products display, description of pellet stoves, energy efficient appliance information, food-waste composting, climate-related displays in store windows.

Facebook The draft guidelines were tabled for discussion. Mary is awaiting to receive the City of Kingston's adopted guidelines. Once the guidelines are established and adopted, the Facebook page can be posted. Vivian agreed to serve as a Fb administrator. Virginia agreed to assist.

Website Compliance with ADA The town's website compliance with ADA was presented. Steve explained that many of the accommodations for persons with visual, hearing and physical challenges were made in the browser. Steve will add tags to the website to provide accommodations where possible.

CAC REGULAR BUSINESS 7:00 pm

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, Carole Furman, Mike Harkavy, Leslie Surprenant, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike MacIsaac. Mary Ann Wrolsen, Patrick Wadden.

Guests: Vernon Benjamin. Mary McNamara. Jim Mays

Approval of Minutes The minutes of the August 16 meeting were approved with one correction.

OLD BUSINESS

Water chestnuts and Milfoil Invasive Species Leslie explained options for milfoil removal from the Esopus Creek. The use of floridone was discussed but it was determined that the high flow in the creek made its use not appropriate. Floridone is a systemic treatment targeted to milfoil, applied by a pump drip method based on stream flow monitoring equipment. Twelve weeks of contact are needed to work. Small pellets are also used in some applications. Endothall could be considered. It would need Article 15 DEC permit and EAF

Leslie contacted four separate contractors: Glenn Sullivan can come and talk to the commission next month; Bob Johnson is booked up; John Menapace (Aquatic Invasives Inc) has done different methods (surveys, by hand, benthic mats) but did not respond; Chris Doyle (Solitude Lake Management) and Mark Bellaud (Aquatic Technology Management and Solitude). She also searched for women-owned contractor businesses but most of them are in riparian repair work. CAC approved inviting Glenn Sullivan to attend the CAC October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Pollinator Plantings Vernon gave an update on pollinators for solar farm stating their benefits. A new state law encouraging their use was passed this year. He reported on their uses elsewhere and noted they benefited agriculture as well as renewable energy.

Planning Board Report Carole gave a planning board report. East Light Solar, a community solar project at the landfill, is approved and “looking for subscribers.” The Blue Stone Solar project from Geronimo Energy public hearing was closed and details are being finalized. Final approval is expected in approximately two months. Vernon and Carole talked briefly about Vernon’s proposal for a change to the zoning ordinance that would include historic resources with agriculture, views, and forests as special areas the planning board needs to look at in large-scale solar site plan reviews; Carole did not agree that specific language should be in the law stating that these issues could warrant disapproval.

Organic Waste Composting Mary McNamara arrived and said that the town (Doug Myer) was looking at composting as a viable activity at the transfer station. It was suggested that this fits one of the PE5 actions toward CSC certification. The Saugerties operation could involve Woodstock and Shandaken. Mary M stated that paper is included as organic material; Mary M was hopeful the town board would take action on Oct. 3. A private sponsor has offered to cover upfront costs. Doug estimated a 10-15% waste reduction. CAC agreed to support the concept, noting the achievement of multiple purposes that might lead to up to a 22% reduction in the waste stream. A discussion ensued about restaurant practices. It was stated that many restaurants already have arrangements for food waste composting.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.