

Conservation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2018

Attending: Skip Arthur, Al Bruno, Ann Bryan, Mike Harkavy, Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Patrick Wadden Mary Anne Wrolsen. Town Board Liaison Mike MacIsaac
Members of the public: Patti Kelly, Mary McNamara, Lanny Walters

Introductions: Went around the room and people introduced themselves.

Duties and Responsibilities of CAC were sent out via email.

Nominations for Vice chairperson were made. Skip Arthur was nominated and unanimously elected. Mike MacIsaac will take minutes

OLD BUSINESS

Aquatic Invasive Species subcommittee members are: Mike Harkavy, Skip Arthur, Mary O'Donnell. The subcommittee is working with Mary McNamara, Gail Porter and Rosemary Brackett as a working group. People agreed we want to get rid of Water chestnuts near the beach and start to look at other areas where there are Eurasian Milfoil south of the beach near the second (south)sandbar Pulling by hand near the beach is feasible, but not out any farther.

Eurasian Milfoil must be pulled by the root. We were supposed to have access to a common weed pulling machine (need details on this). Skip Arthur stated there is a smaller, less expensive machine (around \$70K). It was suggested that we encourage the county to buy one and share it with municipalities in need. Mike M will bring this question up at the next UC Climate Smart Committee meeting. Lanny suggested we should talk with Doug Meyer about purchasing equipment economically. Al Bruno asked if we can work with Riverkeeper. Mary M spoke at the last village meeting and many people were interested. Mike H stated that Leslie Surprenant, a retired NYSDEC biologist, is offering a course on invasive species this spring as part of Lifespring, a Saugerties Adult Learning Community Program. He also suggested Nordica Holochuck who is with the Cornell Cooperative Extension and has worked with invasive species as a resource. It was asked if inmate work groups could be used to help pull up the weeds. It was mentioned that a Bard professor would be willing to help educate Saugerties concerned citizens. Patrick Wadden mentioned a friend of his built a kayak with a device that cuts (does not pull) the weeds by the root. Mary O. stated that DEC suggests we develop a long-term action plan. We will work on this in the spring and will be looking for others to work on this. Ann Bryan suggested that we might also work with Dutchess County. Skip Arthur explained weeds that have been cut are a great addition to composting. Lanny asked if the Town's trucks can be used to haul the harvested weeds.

Bristol Beach Update The work of the Bristol Beach Advisory Committee vis-à-vis the CAC was discussed. Mike H assumes the CAC will be interfacing with the Bristol Beach Advisory Committee. The Bristol Beach Advisory Committee will focus primarily on monetary matters. Mary O: asked Lanny and Mike H to clarify the role of the Bristol Beach Advisory

Committee. Lanny asked if there could be a Bristol Beach subcommittee in the CAC. He suggested that people should read the lease between the Palisades Park Authority and the Town. It is thought that there is a twenty-year lease that allows the town to manage the park.

Town Board Liaison Report The biggest issue from public comment is lack of a law regarding chickens, roosters, guinea hens. Town board will address the issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Procedures

Public Participation It was agreed that members of the public may speak during the meeting. The length of time a member of the public may comment is at the discretion of the chair.

Action between Meetings The procedure to act via email between meetings was approved. A majority of members voted by e mail in December to support a letter to Governor Cuomo urging funding in the 2018 state budget for the Hudson River Estuary Program.

Climate Smart Community Certification

The town is working on becoming a Clean Energy Community. It has completed two of the four high-impact actions required for recognition and is close to completion on a third. The CAC considered whether to advise the Town Board to also pursue certification as a Climate Smart Community. CSC certification is one of the four high-impact actions needed for recognition as a Clean Energy Community. A task force will need to be created. The question of village participation was raised. Resolved: The CAC recommends to the Town Board that Saugerties pursue certification as a Climate Smart Community. We can work with Europa McGovern from Hudson Valley Regional Council who agreed to attend our next meeting. Mary O will discuss with Europa whether the meeting should be a public informational meeting at the Senior Center.

CAC Members Term of Office A question is to do 1, 2 or 3 year terms. Resolved: keep the term of office at one year.

Planning Board Report Mary Anne W reported that she will continue to update the CAC on matters that come before the Planning Board that have environmental implications.

Lincoln Park Grid Project Elizabeth reported that this is a proposed 20 MW gas-fired "peaker" generation plant proposed to be built in the Town of Ulster. Rebecca Martin, head of Kingston Citizens, is scheduled to speak on Feb 7 at 6:00 pm (location not determined). It was pointed out that February 7 is a scheduled Town Board meeting. Indivisible Saugerties is involved in this issue. Elizabeth will follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm