

Conservation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2018
6:00 pm

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, chair; Susan Murphy, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Elizabeth Shafer, Patrick Wadden. Guest: Vernon Benjamin.

Climate Smart Saugerties Website Mary reported that Mark Smith volunteered to design a logo for the Climate Smart Task Force (CSTF) Draft designs were presented and discussed. Steve Wehr volunteered to create the website.

Progress on Actions Based on a suggestion by Europa on how to present documentation for regional campaign affiliation, CEC is now documented on the CSC portal for 3 points; Vernon indicated he would not be recommending a national campaign (ICLEI, Climate Registry and Under 2 Coalition) because the town is already affiliated with CEC. The other climate smart campaigns are oriented toward global or large communities

Government Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mary reported that Patti is continuing work collecting inventory data for electricity and natural gas use. She will do similar inventories for heating oil, propane, diesel, etc.

Energy Audits Vernon reported that a request went out to providers approved by NYSERDA for building energy audits.

Green Building Certification Discussion centered around whether or not we will need to do this task; Carole to check the portal; Vernon to send information on that section

LED street lights. The question arose about how many are owned by Central Hudson and how many of those have been changed over to LEDs. Vernon reported that all town-owned street lights have been changed over to LEDs. Question remains regarding the lighting districts. It was pointed out that there are two separate actions: one is for conversion to LED street lights; the other action is for conversion to LED lights for off-street lights such as parking lots.

Inspire the Public. Vernon circulated a check sheet associated with these points; Mary suggested that the task force look at what actions to undertake in this category because of the lead time needed in preparing for a community event. Vernon will send around info sheets on the points in this area. Patrick suggested exploring the possibility of partnering with Shout Out Saugerties. Mary will follow up on this suggestion.

Grants. Vernon gave a brief report on the potential for estuary grants this year. Elizabeth will also check into this area for funding.

CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, chair; Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Patrick Wadden, Elizabeth Shafer. Guests: Vernon Benjamin, Mary McNamara.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Choice Aggregate (CCA) Vernon reported on the CCA program and distributed a benefits/drawbacks memo. CAC recommends that the town explore participation in CCA as a potential model for energy. Vernon noted that one drawback not discussed so far was the effect

of community solar projects on CCA and how community solar projects could draw off customers usually left within the CCA model.

Water chestnuts and Milfoil Invasive Species Skip and Mary reported on water chestnut and milfoil infestation around the village beach. After scoping the area at the beach, Skip reported that a volunteer effort organized by the CAC to remove the aquatic vegetation was not feasible. He reported that Gail Porter, a member of a working group on aquatic invasive species, has been working on trying to remove the milfoil from the Esopus Creek near the beach. Skip described the milfoil proliferation beyond the beach area. He noted persistent problem is one that is very difficult to resolve. Mary suggested the CAC consider recommending that the town supervisor write to the DEC and PRISM (the invasive team) to highlight the issue and solicit their assistance in addressing the problem. Mary McNamara suggested a reach-out to the Cary Institute, an organization that understands how phosphorus and nitrogen impact water quality.

Bristol Beach Update Mary O. presented Mike H.'s report. Work on the 9W access road to Bristol Beach and trail construction will begin in October after the nesting season of the Indiana bats is over. Costs of materials for the road are being prepared by the firm Brinnier and Larios. Stone dust or mulch are being considered to harden the trail, and signage will be posted. Vernon reported that he was working on a CFA grant for the town to prepare the Rt. 9W entrance and build a road for construction vehicles and start work on a trail along the former narrow gauge rail into the site.

Boat Launch Signage Based on information provided by Leslie, Mary reported that state regulations require signage at all boat-launch sites advising boaters how to clean their boats to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Mary will follow up and advise the town of the requirement.

NEW BUSINESS

Plattekill Creek Watershed Management Plan Mary McNamara reported on progress with a Plattekill Creek Watershed Plan noting progress is being made on a Sawkill Watershed Plan by a Woodstock committee. She expects that would serve as a useful model for Saugerties in developing a plan for the Plattekill. She plans to convene a Plattekill stakeholders meeting in the near future to create an advisory council to oversee the plan's development. She noted that the town had a groundwater protection plan (2005) and that Steve Winkley also did watershed planning. She will attempt to seek the files of the former Plattekill Creek group that was led by Sandra Thorpe, and will keep the CAC updated quarterly on her progress. Mary M. also informed the CAC of a new organization, the Hudson 7, formed from the communities that take their drinking water from the Hudson, and said their interest on the Plattekill and Sawkill as contributing pollution as useful for the town in applying for future grants or support.

UC Environmental Management Council Report Mary O. reported that the UCEMC is supporting county legislation, Bring Your own Bag Act, that bans single-use, carry-out plastic bags and imposes a 5 cent charge for paper, carry out bags.

CAC Summer Meeting Schedule It was agreed that the CAC will maintain its regular meeting schedule for July and August.

Adjournment at 9:00 pm