

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

October 17, 2019

6:00 pm

Town Hall Rear Conference Room

Minutes

Attendees: Mary O'Donnell, Skip Arthur, Mary Anne Wrolsen, Susan Murphy, Mike Harkavy, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike MacIsaac, Vernon Benjamin.

I Climate Smart Task Force

Announcement Jane Asiain has resigned from the task force. An acknowledgement of her contributions to task force will be sent to Janet.

Task Force Future Role Given that the task force completed its goal to achieve Climate Smart Certification at the bronze level for the town, discussion on the future role of the task force took place. It was agreed that the task force should remain in place; it should focus on assisting the town on implementation of the Climate Action Plan, and continue to work on climate smart actions. Elizabeth suggested a subcommittee be formed to address the issue of avoiding toxic chemicals and reducing waste in art materials. She provided links to websites that provide information on the issue.

EV's and EV Charging Vernon reported that the town is installing an EV charging station at the library. Other areas in the business district are being considered. The amount to charge the public for use of the station was discussed. It was suggested that the CAC review the process and consider an appropriate cost for the public to use EV charging stations

II Regular Business

Approval of Minutes Approved unanimously.

Goals 2020 A discussion on goals for the CAC in 2020 took place. Suggestions included public events on environmental issues. Leslie proposed public outreach on the topic, *Plant Smart*, to focus on the importance of planting native species of plants, and a planting trees event was also proposed.

Eurasian Milfoil and Water Chestnut Management/Control Mary reported that an Esopus Creek Preservation Committee was established in 1994 to address the issue of Eurasian Milfoil in the creek, and she presented information in a newsletter *NEWSFLOW*. The newsletter referenced the use of a harvester and sterile carp to control the milfoil. Mike M. reported that he discussed with the supervisor the CAC recommendation to establish an Aquatic Invasive Species Committee to work with the town on removal of the Eurasian Milfoil and Water chestnut from the Esopus Creek. The importance of having village officials involved was emphasized. Mike M. will follow up with the supervisor on this issue.

Town Board Liaison Report Mike MacIsaac reported that the Town Board passed a memorializing resolution at its October 16 meeting opposing the Danskammer plant in Newburgh.

UC Environmental Management Council Mary reported that County Legislator Tracey Bartels attended the September council meeting and updated members on the issue of solid waste disposal. County trash is trucked a 230 mile distance to the Seneca Meadows landfill and it is scheduled to close in five years. In five years, Ulster County has to have alternatives for trash disposal. One answer is to create a local landfill, but an important part of the solution is to reduce the waste stream. There is currently only twenty to thirty years of landfill space available. The RRA is working on a 20-year waste management plan, but it's important to reduce the quantity of waste thorough recycling and composting. Tracey described her visits to recycling centers that process waste materials and plastics for reuse. Compostable food waste is a major component of the waste stream, and the legislature is considering laws that would require more food waste to be composted. Tracey's objective is to make some fundamental decisions about waste management during the next legislative session. Mary also reported that the county received a grant to inventory and assess culverts in the Lower Esopus Watershed. Saugerties is one of three towns that will be part of the inventory and assessment.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.