

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

August 17, 2023 Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE 5:00 pm Start

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Kathleen Gray, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Nicole Roskos, Robert Irizarry.

Mary welcomed Robert, who was recently appointed by the Town Board, to the group. He provided information about his background and interest in serving on the CAC.

Approval of July Minutes Mary moved to accept, Mike second. Minutes approved

Recommendation to the Town Board to hire a consultant to update the Natural Resource Inventory and the Open Space Plan

Mary noted the Open Space Plan was last done in 2010 and the inventory is part of the plan. She suggested the town hire a consultant to help update both.

Leslie attended the meeting with the Ulster County group that is working on a Natural Resource Inventory project.

Kathleen thought it might be more efficient to have the company that originally did the plan update it, because they've already got all the information.

Skip thought that the group could recommend that the Town Board redo the plan and to consider the group that did it before.

Elizabeth noted that she was on the committee in 2010 and remembered the inventory was in chapter two of the report, pages 21 to 46.

Mike thought it would be premature to ask the Town Board to hire somebody right off the bat.

It was noted that the inventory and Open Space Plan were expired actions for Climate-Smart recertification.

Mary said the town needed a good updated inventory and Open Space Plan because it's so important for the community.

It was agreed that the committee recommend that the town update the inventory and Open Space Plan without the recommendation to hire a consultant.

CSC Re-certification Progress Report

Approved Actions. Mary brought up the approved items such as the pledge, one of the inventories, the CAP, the audit, the solar permit and the shade structure.

Expired Actions Updated. In order for recertification at the Bronze level, the town requires 120 points. The actions that expired and are updated were reviewed.

For the climate-related events, Ken noted that the library events should qualify. He also believed that both the CSS and town website were in compliance for the Website action approval.

NYSERDA approved LED street lights as a clean energy action for that category. The committee will need data on The Residential Organic Waste Program to qualify. The town should get approval for alternative fuel infrastructure given the five EV charging stations installed. Kathleen confirmed that they qualify, being open 24 hours a day and open to the public. For solar energy, Skip said the operation was well documented.

Ken asked if any of the items could be in danger of expiring before the submission was fully considered. Mary replied that the shade structure action, for example, was due to expire in 2025.

Mike asked about the ice rink more efficient chiller. Mary replied that she didn't see that it falls under any of the actions.

New Actions Added and Completed. Mary then moved to the next section of actions: New actions already submitted and completed. One of which was the cooling center. Ken said the website confirms the availability of the cooling center but it is unclear who is responsible for opening it.

The next item was the community campaign. NYSERDA approved the town's participation in the Community Solar Campaign.

There was a question of where the Greenhouse Gas Inventory tracking system would be counted, either PE10 or PE4. The previous report was substantially based on data from Central Hudson, although material from each town department would be considered too.

Mary said that CCA was approved by NYSERDA but may not be approved because of the default opt-out option in the contract.

For climate resiliency Mary and Kathleen attended the Cornell Cooperative Extension Workshop and the documents produced by CCE should qualify as documentation.

The garlic festival covers recycling for public events. For partnership with other entities Mary noted the association with the Ulster County Environmental Management Council. Social media is covered by the town's Facebook page. The Renewable Energy Feasibility Study is expired. Mary asked if a member could do research into the matter. For code enforcement officer. Kevin Brown and Alvah have New York State certification documents but require NYSERDA code enforcement training to qualify for CSC approval. Kathleen said the town is a participating municipality in the County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Flood Resiliency Network Leslie said she would be the contact person for the Flood Resiliency Network Group. Kathleen said she is the current contact for the group and outlined the participation. The minimum would be 4 sessions per year and Mary asked if some of the committee members would volunteer to attend.

CCA Follow-Up Mary said there is no report on the percentage of participation so far. Skip reported that there is proposed legislation on defining what constitutes a CCA. He questioned if Senator Hinchey or Assemblyperson Shrestha could help move it forward.

Planning Board Report Carole reported on the Villa project on Spaulding Lane. It is presently being considered for a zoning variance.

Town Liaison Report Zach was unable to attend, but emailed the committee the following report:

CAC Meeting, 8-17-23
Town Board Update

The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill (The Villas at Spaulding Lane):
There will be public hearings set for 9/6 and 9/26 to address the request for a zoning change by the Town Board at this location. If passed, this zoning change will transition this property from Low Density Residential (LDR), to High Density Residential (HDR). This public hearing will commence at 5:30pm on 9/6. All are welcome to attend.

Harvester:

In recent correspondence from Eyal at the Village of Saugerties, Eyal indicated that the village is inundated with several other projects that are prioritized at this time. Additionally, Eyal stated that the GPS unit in the Harvester is currently not functioning properly, and digital mapping is not available at this time. This email exchange took place on 8/9, and I have yet to receive any new updates. I will report back as soon as an update is received.

Pickle Ball Courts:

The pickle ball courts project, located near the tennis courts at Cantine, is nearing completion as well. The posts for the nets are arriving shortly. Regarding the painting of the courts, there was discrepancy as to when the courts would be painted, as the company whose bid was selected could not guarantee they would be able to complete the painting until the Spring of 2024. However, until the court painting is completed, there will be a temporary water-based paint that will be used. This water-based paint will be temporary and will not interfere with the final mixture that is used to complete the project. Barring any other unexpected delays, this project should be completed soon.

Saugerties Dog Park:

Parks and Recreation employees have been working diligently to perform “cleanup” projects at the Saugerties Dog Park location. These tasks included intensive weeding and pressure washing of the entire rock to remove dirt and thick layers of moss. Additionally, signage for the Dog Park is being finalized and ordered to put on display, and the town is awaiting the delivery of sod. This has been delayed to driver and truck shortages, but the delivery is expected within the next two weeks. The irrigation and water supply has already been completed and it is expected that the sod will take nicely at this location.

Cell Tower:

On 8/9/23, the Town of Saugerties Zoning Board of Appeals met and agreed on a settlement regarding the matter of Tarpon Towers II LLC, and Cellco Partnership, DBA Verizon Wireless. The Town Board met on 8/10/23 to approve the resolution, as on file, pertaining to the acceptance of this settlement. The resolution can be viewed on the Town

of Saugerties website, which contains the specifics for the new cell tower that is set to be placed at the Mount Marion Fire Department.

Announcements Mary said there would be a ‘workwalk’ in Marbletown August 31st to discuss a stream management plan for the lower Esopus Creek.

Adjournment Mary moved with Elizabeth seconding. The motion passed.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION 6:37 pm Start

Present: Mary O’Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Kathleen Gray, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur.

Approval of Minutes Mary moved to approve the July CAC minutes and Carole seconded. Approved.

Updates

Esopus Creek Aquatic Vegetation Survey. Leslie said due to time constraints the survey wouldn’t happen this year.

Press release for Pollination Meadow Grant, Leslie contacted Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley to get a quote from them about the project for the press release but hadn’t heard back from them yet. She did get a quote from Supervisor Costello.

Announcements Leslie reported that she had been appointed by the legislature to the Ulster County Recycling Oversight Committee.

Adjournment Mary moved, Mike seconded. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary