

# Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

February 21, 2019

6:00 pm

Town Hall Rear Conference Room

## MINUTES

### I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

**Attendees:** Mary O, Mike H, Steve W, Mike M, Skip A, Carole F, Elizabeth S., Leslie S., Janet A., Mary Anne W, Patti K.

**Guests:** Kathleen Gray, Town of Saugerties grant writer, Mark Smith, Chamber of Commerce, Ray B, Stephanie Bassler, Larry Ulfik. Jim Mays Mary McNamara, Vernon Benjamin, Nicole Roskos.

**Shade Policy** in public places was adopted by the Town Board

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.** Mike M will continue to work on this

**Energy Audit** – Vernon reported that three members of Greg Chorvas’ staff met with the auditors and provided the auditors with information. In two months, there will be a major report on three buildings audited. The cost of the audit is \$10,750 funded 50% by a grant. If the recommendations of the audit are implemented, the town will be reimbursed its 50% cost. Kiwanis Ice arena chiller is energy intensive and can be improved upon. There may be a separate grant available for this.

**Advanced Vehicle Infrastructure** – Two charging stations will be installed, one at the Senior Center and one near the tennis courts at Cantine Field. The cost will be \$1.50/hr to charge cars. This should cover the town’s cost.

**Renewable Energy Feasibility Study** Vernon reported that EPA is sending a solar-array feasibility study it prepared for the town. The town is considering establishing its own CCA.

**Climate Action Plan** – Mary sent out a rough outline. Vernon and Kathleen are working on it. It has to be adopted by the Town Board at its May meeting in order to submit the plan as an action toward CSC certification. Mary requested a first draft for the March CAC meeting. Patti and Carole will also work on the plan.

**Interior Lighting** – Skip and Mike H. sent out all the information about the lighting upgrade inventory. The interior lighting upgrades meet standards. Mary suggested we submit the information we have.

**GHG Inventory** Patti K reported on the inventory document. Some sources of energy used were not correct and they have been corrected.

**Community GHG Emissions Inventory** Mary O stated that Europa M advised that we need an executive summary of what the town has done to improve efficiency and what efforts are in place to continue reducing GHG emissions. Carole agreed to prepare the summary with input from Vernon.

**Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements.** Mary O reported that she has reviewed the Comprehensive Plan to determine if it meets the requirements for documentation for points.

**Climate Related Public Event, GoSmartGoGreen Fair** – Mark S. reported that we have 10 vendors who have agreed to attend. Steve W. has electric-car owners attending. Patti plans to display charts showing results of the

town's GHG inventory, Mary M. has been working on water conservation information. Stephanie has contacts with energy-efficiency vendors. Janet A. will write an overview of the event. Steve W. has updated the ClimateSmartSaugerties.org website to include an event page.

**Publicity Plan**, that includes print, cable, email evites, website, flyers, Facebook, banner, sidewalk signs and print ad, was reviewed and discussed. Janet suggested a publicity committee be formed. She, Steve and Mark will serve on the committee. Janet will prepare press releases, Steve and Mark will post on websites, Skip will order the banner. Mark will handle sidewalk signs. Janet will oversee flyer distribution.

**Recommendation:** Town adopt a Green Power Procurement Policy was tabled.

**Motion:** To issue a letter of support for a Food Scraps Composting Grant was not discussed.

## II REGULAR BUSINESS

**Attendees:** : Mary O, Mike H, Mike M, Skip A, Carole F, Mary M, Elizabeth S., Leslie S, Mary Anne W.

**Guests:** Nicole R. Stephanie B, Jim M. Vernon B

**Approval of Minutes** – Unanimous

### **New Business**

**Report Cornell Cooperative Extension Feb 13<sup>th</sup> meeting** CAC members Skip A, Mike H and Mary O (via phone) attended, along with representatives from the town, village, Cornell Cooperative Extension, A matrix of possible options to address the Water chestnuts and Eurasian Milfoil in the Esopus Creek was presented and discussed at the meeting. Also, a boat wash at the dock was recommended. The plan forward is for the town supervisor and village mayor to continue reviewing options, particularly the use of a harvester to control the Eurasian Milfoil.

**Report Aquatic Invasive Biocontrol Webinar** – Mike H attended a webinar with Dr Blassey. There is an insect that feeds on just water chestnuts. This may be a long-term solution.

**Report Town Board Liaison** Mike M reported that at the 2/6/19 Town Board meeting, the Board adopted a shade structure policy and approved the description of the role of the task force coordinator. At the 2/20/19 meeting, the Board agreed to the purchasing of an EV (Chevy Bolt) for the Water and Sewer Department. At the 1/28/19 County Climate Smart Community meeting, County Legislator Manna Jo Greene indicated that Saugerties may end up being a model for Ulster County in terms of green businesses.

**Planning Board Report** – Carole F reported that the Trnka property community solar system will go forward. The Lauren Tice solar system is also moving forward.

**Update on Bristol Beach** – Mike H reported that the highway department has started construction of a road onto the property and a twenty- car parking lot. The town will seek support from the Palisades Park Commission for a future grant to fund additional work on the property to make it available for passive recreation. Winston Farm Alliance has donated \$80,000 toward improvements on the property.

**Adjournment** – 8:10 pm