

# CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

July 21, 2022

Via Zoom

## MINUTES

### I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

**Present:** Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Mike Harkavy, Zach Horton, Patti Kelly, Susan Murphy, Mary O'Donnell, Nicole Roskos, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Steve Wehr

Request for volunteer to host our Zoom meeting because Steve has moved to Hyde Park and will be working with Climate Smart in Dutchess County. Susan Murphy volunteered.

Meeting convened at 5:15pm by Mary O'Donnell, presiding.

#### **Approval of June 16, 2022 Task Force Minutes as Amended**

Leslie moved, Mike seconded. All approved.

#### **CSC Community GHG Inventory**

Presentation rescheduled for the August meeting.

#### **NY Stretch Energy Code 2020**

Mary recommended having a presentation on the NY Stretch Energy Code 2020.

CEC Coordinator Kat Carroll is finding someone knowledgeable at NYSERDA to give a presentation for the task force, the Town Board and code enforcement officer. Carole also knows someone who makes such presentations: Pasquale Strocchia of Integral Building Design in New Paltz. The Task Force has recommended the Town adopt the 2020 version. A NY Energy Stretch Code 2023 code is being developed.

#### **Winston Farm (WF) Report**

Mike Harkavy reported that the Town Board has issued a Positive Declaration which calls for a full SEQR review in which the task force and public may participate. Skip and Mike have been focusing on protection of the aquifer and adequate water supply for the proposed development. Mike reported that the Village is putting forth an annual service fee to the Town and starting to look at fees if the Town goes over their allotted 650 KGD. Issues discussed included adequate water supply, the Town's water needs, how much water the Town draws, and the consultants input and the applicant's responsibility in the SEQR process. Mike noted that the applicant had requested a zoning change originally for nine parcels, but changed the request to eleven parcels.

TO DO: Carole will send the Pos Dec to Mary, and Mary will send it the task force.

### **Planning Board Report**

Carole reported no further movement on the Denier Car Wash or the Terramore Glamping proposal before the Planning Board. The board has yet to issue a declaration on Denier Car Wash. The board is still looking at more information before making a decision about rezoning.

### **Town Board Liaison Report**

Zach reported that the harvester operated about 66 hours in the month of June. It is currently down for repairs. The secondary operator has nearly completed his training and certification, so we can expect the harvester to be operating more frequently. The May report included the amount of aquatic vegetation harvested and from where in the creek it was harvested. Zach agreed to make these monthly reports to the task force.

Zach indicated that he would like to present the Bee City resolution at 8/17 Town Board meeting. Mary indicated that the \$200 fee could come from the CAC budget.

TO DO: Zach to send the resolution to the Task Force, to be discussed at our August 18 meeting for decision in September.

### **Announcements**

The series of three evenings at the Library are all set. On Thursday 8/4 7:00 pm the kickoff presentation by Leslie on climate change, "Fire & (Melting) Ice." On Thursday 8/25 Susan will present on Plastics. On Tuesday 9/13, Nicole will present on trees and forests in relation to climate change. All Task Force members are encouraged to attend.

Steve reported that only three people come to his EV presentation.

**Adjournment** Nicole moved; Carole seconded. All approved.

## **II. CAC REGULAR BUSINESS**

**Meeting start:** 6:10 PM

**Present:** Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Nicole Roskos, Kathleen Gray, Zach Horton

**Approval of June 16, 2022 Minutes** – postponed to August meeting.

**Tree City USA** Nicole Roskos reported that the Arbor Day trees planted (2) and Fred Costello Sr. tree (1) are water stressed according to arborist Vern Rist. Greg Chorvas was apprised of the condition via email from Vern. The Arbor Day trees were funded by the USDA Forestry Service through the DEC Urban and Community Forestry Program. Town must complete Tree City Resolution and a tree maintenance policy to be eligible to apply for grants. Grant deadline is December 16, 2022.

**ACTION: Nicole and Carole** will review the draft tree maintenance policy for potential Planning Board review and approval.

**Bee City Pollinator Meadow Report** Elizabeth Shafer and Leslie Surprenant reported. Proposed high school location for pollinator garden / meadow may not be feasible and could not be completed in reasonable time frame. Elizabeth met with Greg Chorvas to discuss potential for establishing a pollinator support meadow at the Cantine complex. Greg has identified a good location for a ¼ acre meadow that could be expanded. CAC must have funds and labor secured and a concrete plan for planting and maintenance prior to Greg's crew preparing the ground for the meadow. Suggestions at the

meeting include seed donations, requiring NYS native species, engaging Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, garden clubs, school programs, and Key Club. Costs for remainder of 2022 (weed control fabric) are needed and costs for 2023 are needed for the CAC to make a budget request for 2023 (planting material, mulch, etc.) A plan for securing volunteer labor is also needed. Nicole suggested contacting Liz Alkin in New Paltz – experienced in pollinator gardens. Barbara Bravo, CCE Master Gardener is willing to discuss her experience working with town on establishing and maintaining rain garden at Sr. Center. Bee City designation requires town resolution, fees, and work completed. Revised resolution needs final review by CAC then town board approval. Pollinator work group: Leslie, Elizabeth, Carole, Nicole.

**ACTIONS:**

**Elizabeth** – follow up with Greg to clarify use of weed barrier fabric (left in place?) and cost of fabric.

**Zach** – send current resolution version to CAC for review in advance of September 15 board meeting.

**Carole** – contact Hudson Valley Seed Company about cost for ¼ acre pollinator mix.

**Esopus Creek Aquatic Macrophyte Survey** Leslie Surprenant reported that the 2022 Survey will take two days plus additional time for data analysis and report writing. First day of survey will be July 23. NYS DEC Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Cathy McGlynn will be assisting in the first day of the survey.

**ACTION: Leslie** – complete survey and report for CAC.

**Esopus Creek Aquatic Invasive Species June Harvesting Report – Mary O'Donnell and Zach**

**Horton.** Harvester operated 66 hours in June. Two operators will enable the harvester to operate 6 or 7 days per week.

**ACTION: Zach** send Mary June harvesting report

**Malden Wastewater Treatment Plant – Kathleen Gray** Town requests CAC letter of support by July 27 for town's engineering planning grant application. Malden WWTP equipment is 40 years old and needs upgraded treatment and energy efficiency. CAC approved.

**ACTION: Mary** will draft letter of support and share with CAC for review.

**Adjournment:** 7:12 PM