

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

January 19, 2023 Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE 5:30 pm Start

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Skip Arthur, Kathleen Gray, Mary Anne Wrolsen, Nicole Roskos.

Guest: Executive Director Hudson Valley Energy Jeff Domanski

Community Choice Aggregation Jeff was invited as guest to speak about the future of CCA in Saugerties. Elizabeth questioned the role Central Hudson had in the unraveling of the previous CCA. Jeff replied that it was unfortunate timing between the Central Hudson billing issues. He said that Central Hudson blaming the CCAs was a false narrative and there are entities and organizations examining the situation.

Jeff explained that Columbia, the previous supplier, didn't hedge their position sufficiently even though they claimed "forces beyond their control." While there is presently an injunction against Columbia preventing them from doing business in New York, the back door allowed them to potentially void their contract with the CCAs.

He reported that Joule, the CCA Administrator, was effectively in "hibernation" although they continue to advocate for the program in different forms. Subsequent contracts will not be the same involving different suppliers and potentially offering tiers of offerings that might not be 100% renewable energy. The important fact is communities must agree on a single supplier.

Joule is still working on offerings that could have "modified variable rates" instead of fixed but with guardrails to protect the end user.

Ken asked if individual customers might be able to select their tier of renewable/non-renewable. Jeff thought it could be an option but stated that there would need to be an established default option.

Skip asked if Inspire, a supplier, was not large enough to handle the contract for all the participating communities, could they be locked in for only Saugerties. Jeff said he would pass the request on to Joule for consideration

Green Purchasing Community Program Kathleen spoke about New York's Green Purchasing Community Program which has a one-page application. It would be an agreement to commit to specifications for supplies and equipment purchased by the town. The policy would receive updates by the Green New York Council. It was understood that it could be enacted by Town Board resolution to amend the town's 2013 policy. It was agreed that it should be researched

further, discussed with board members and an estimate of expenses should be calculated. Mary offered to do further research while Kathleen agreed to investigate the town's purchasing agents.

Planning Board Report Mike said there was a hearing on Terramore and the town was waiting for the SEQRA PosDec. He questioned if the Planning Board had issued a Positive Declaration, and said the project was within zoning. Mary said she would follow up with Carole.

Town Board Liaison Report No report.

Adjournment Mike moved and Elizabeth seconded that the Task Force be adjourned. The motion passed.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION 6:09 pm Start

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Skip Arthur, Kathleen Gray, Mary Anne Wrolsen, Nicole Roskos.

Approval of Minutes Mary moved to table the February Minutes. Elizabeth seconded. Motion passed.

Election of Secretary Mary nominated Kevin Freeman as CAC secretary. Elizabeth seconded. Motion passed.

Election of Vice Chair Mary nominated Mike as vice-chair. Elizabeth seconded. No other nominations offered and Mike was so elected.

Statement Re: Tree Removal at Winston Farm There was discussion about a statement to the Town Board regarding Winston Farm tree removal, Mike noted that the scoping document was incomplete without addressing this issue. After two changes were made to the draft statement, it was agreed that it should be presented to the Town Board.

USDA Forest Stewardship Program Kathleen had some information about the USDA Forest Stewardship Program. It was discussed if Nicole could use it as a resource for incorporation into the draft Tree Preservation Plan. It was agreed that further research was needed.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary