

## **Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission**

November 19, 2020

Video Conference via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

**Present Members:** Carole Furman Mike Harkavy, Susan Murphy, Patti Kelly, Steve Wehr, Mary O'Donnell, Nicole Roskos, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant. Mary Ann Wrolsen joined near the end of the meeting.

**Non Members:** Councilman John Schoonmaker, Kathleen Gray.

The meeting was convened at 6:10pm, Mary O'Donnell presiding.

**Approval of Minutes** Motion to accept October 15, 2020 minutes made by Steve, seconded by Leslie; all voted in favor.

### **CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE**

#### **Installation of Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations in Multi-unit Dwellings**

Steve led a discussion on ways to include EV Charging Station in new multi-unit dwellings. He asked to have language included in the draft Comprehensive Plan. Steve suggested that paths going forward are regulatory and encouragement/incentive. The question of building code changes to address the issue was raised. It was suggested that to make a multi-unit building "EV ready" one option could be to simply install a 110 outlet on the building, or have a developer just run conduit out from the building to the parking lot; they don't necessarily have to put in the chargers. The developers would need the specs. Skip suggested a public presentation similar to what Solarize Saugerties did, with a guest speaker and statistics about the increasing number of EVs and statistics relative to that, including advantages, costs, available rebates and incentives, etc. The target audience would be builders, developers, businesses, apartment building owners, the building department inspectors, planning board members. Kathleen explained current opportunities for individuals and businesses to obtain charging stations through NYSERDA, and a new program for high-speed charging stations through Regional Economic Development. Steve noted that high-speed stations installation costs hundreds of thousands of dollars, and approximately 5K for regular charging stations.

TO DO: Kathleen will send Steve information on Lily Pad, the company that sold the charging stations to the town.

TO DO: Steve will be in contact with Carole re: concrete wording to include in the Comprehensive Plan before it is formally adopted.

#### **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)**

The next step is for the town to sign the agreement with Joule; the agreement is now under review by the town attorney. The two issues are are 1) Data: the Town is requiring that any data Joule gets from CH be made available to the town, and 2) Hiring the Organizer: Joule hires an organizer and there is language in the agreement that the town agrees to hiring that organizer without delay. Outreach for the program is expected in January 2021.

**Village Participation in CCA** It was noted that the Village of Saugerties would need to act by passing a local law and hiring an administrator in order for village residents and small business owners to participate in a CCA. Outreach to the mayor and Trustee Hackett has taken place.

#### **CAC Budget**

Mary request that \$2,000 be allocated to the CAC 2021 budget noting that the funds were part of a grant given to the town for achieving clean energy status in the NYS Clean Energy Communities program. John reported that the budget was passed yesterday with the \$2000 allocation included in the CAC budget.

### **Climate Action Plan for Government Operations**

The 2019 Climate Action Plan for Government Operations calls for a Climate Committee to prepare an annual report to include the status of projects underway in 2019 and projects recommended for 2020 and beyond. Mary O'Donnell, Carol Furman, Kathleen Gray, Vernon Benjamin, Patti Kelly, and John Schoonmaker agreed to prepare write-ups on the projects, and Mary O'Donnell agreed to prepare the Annual Report. A discussion about acquiring data to include in the report took place.

### **Town Board Liaison Report**

John reported that Peg Nau was appointed by the Town Board to complete the unexpired term of Councilman Andreassen.

### **REGULAR CAC BUSINESS 7:12 pm**

**Present – Members:** Mary O'Donnell, Leslie Surprenant, Mike Harkavy, MaryAnn Wrolsen, Carol Furman, Elizabeth Shafer

**Non-members:** Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker, Town Assistant Special Operations Coordinator Kathleen Gray.

**Approval of Minutes** October meeting minutes approved.

**Esopus Creek Update** Village of Saugerties Board wants an in-person presentation on the Esopus Creek Aquatic Vegetation Survey and recommendations.

□ **ACTION:** John S. will follow up with the village officials (Don Hackett and Mayor Murphy).

**Stream Classification Bill.** The NYS Assembly and Senate passed legislation to protect “Class C” streams, 61.3 miles of this classification in the Town of Saugerties. The CAC agreed to recommend to the Town Board that the board send letter to the governor in support of the legislation. (*Editor's note – Governor did not sign the bill*).

**Planning Board Report** Carole reported that town will need to address issues with AirBnB rental units.

**Announcement** Leslie reported that she taught a six- week ecology class for the LifeSpring adult learning community in the fall.

**Adjourn:** 8:00 pm.