

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

September 25, 2025

Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

Present: Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Mary O'Donnell, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Mike Ivino

Approval of August 21, 2025, Minutes

The motion carried.

CCAP Update

Mary outlined the CCAP status which is posted on the town website with a public-comment email set up by Leslie. Linda coordinated posting with Mike Campbell. The plan is 14 pages with a 2022 GHG inventory and town reduction goals. Leslie and Ken will compile comments for CAC review before the Town Board considers a final version. Two public presentations were set for the regular Oct 16 CAC meeting and at a special Oct 23 meeting with comments due Nov 11. Carole will place two binders at the library and one at the town clerk and pursue library outreach.

Mike Ivino confirmed Town Board alignment with the CCAP. He reported installation of additional heat pumps at Town Hall and said EV options are being pursued: Tesla ~~units~~ automobiles show cost and maintenance advantages over Cybertruck and standard police vehicles, though ground clearance and rural access remain concerns.

On Northeast Solite, CAC's idea of a town-appointed task force, including Town Board and Solite representation, ~~was~~ surfaced as a key talking point to address Solite's considerable emissions. Mary emphasized realistic emissions-reduction targets aligned with state goals.

Zero Waste Update

For the Garlic Festival, Mike said 2025 Zero Waste operations will be taken over by Kawanis but mirror last year's, with Greenway still receiving material after an attempted shift to bagless collection was rejected. The town will rigorously track material counts with pitch counters and refine container strategy. A major 2026 push is to use Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certified service ware by procuring and distributing approved items directly to vendors, assuring trays, cups, utensils and other service are compostable festival wide.

Beyond the festival, the town has a DEC permit to handle and transport food waste and is designing a town-run static-aerated composting operation at the transfer station, modeled closer

to UCRRA's concrete-pad system rather than Greenway's ground based system. The aim is a zero-waste collection and composting site at the transfer station with certified end product compost.

A school-district partnership is planned to implement BPI standards to food serviceware and segregated collection starting at the high school, expanding district-wide, with students potentially bringing household scraps; the town will contract to haul and process. Baselines and cost savings will be quantified. Preliminary estimates from school administration suggested a few thousand dollars per month in avoided disposal, and the team will capture tonnage data. A village drop-site is still needed.

EMC

Leslie reported EMC updates and is stepping down. Carole is willing to serve. Carole also discussed Purple Air sensor (particulate assessment device) placement and wood-stove emissions awareness.

Planning Board

Planning Board notes flagged the Witts Pond subdivision ~~by~~ concerning wetlands and two Class C streams with DEC watching closely.

Announcements

Linda announced the upcoming Repair Cafe on Saturday, October 4th, Senior Center from 10 to 2.

Adjournment

The motion carried at 6:26 p.m.

Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary