

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

June 20, 2024 Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE 5:00 pm Start

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Skip Arthur, Elizabeth Shafer, Kathleen Gray, Carole Furman, Toni Giammona, Linda Armour

Approval of May 16, 2024 Minutes

Mary moved, Skip seconded. The motion passed.

Financial Update

Skip presented the budget and expenses for the committee, deducting the secretary's salary for the remainder of the year, leaving a balance of \$1,058 in discretionary funds. Mary added that the committee traditionally requested a budget of \$2,500 per year. It has been submitted to the Town Board in September for the preliminary budget to be adopted in December for the coming year.

CEC/CSC Status

Kathleen said she had submitted requests for CEC points for the new Zamboni and a piece of landscaping equipment. She also added the Energy Code Enforcement Training, but that hasn't shown up in the scorecard yet. The latest \$100,000 grant is earmarked for electric vehicles for the town and Kathleen will push the Supervisor to make the purchase before the grant's due date of July 18. Linda reminded Kathleen that the Repair Café qualifies for points. There was discussion about the relationship between the CEC (Clean Energy Communities) and the CSC (Climate Smart Communities). Mary reminded everyone that the CEC was being phased out. Kathleen said the town needed an additional 500 points for the next level of CEC funding. The town has less than 200 CSC points, enough to qualify for Bronze Status. A discussion on actions to implement to achieve Silver certification ensued.

The CSC certification is valid for 5 years and counts towards CEC scoring, but it is rumored that the CEC will be defunded by 2026. Mary referred to the document CEC 3.0 which outlines the scoring for each action item. Mary suggested that items like community solar or heat pumps

might get the town close to the 500 points needed. Skip added that there is a Greenway recycling program that is being considered that might be worth points in either program as well.

Repair Café Report

Linda said moving forward she is trying to engage more local "fixers." The café served 62 people with 45 items fixed. The next event will be in October. She is considering a lamp parts kit, which costs around \$350, but is self-refilling since users pay for the parts during the repair process. She is in contact with Smith's Hardware for discounts and donations.

Pollinator Meadow Update

Leslie was absent but Skip reported on the progress: The border specimen plants appear to be doing well. There are 3 invasive species that will need to be controlled. In addition to the costs associated with the seeds, there is a need for interpretive signs or even a kiosk. Partners for Climate Action is the funding source for the project. The accounting will be finalized by December. There was an agreement to find a graphic artist to work with Leslie for the sign for the pollinator meadow.

Ice Arena Energy Savings Celebration

The arena has a \$4,000 grant to publicize the energy savings for the chiller (and Zamboni). It was decided that Greg Chorvas be the point person to determine how to use the grant money.

Announcements

Skip said there would be a webinar on the 24th regarding CEC/CSC wanting feedback from municipalities. Mary was interested in attending and it was hoped Rob could as well.

There was discussion about the burden of getting the documentation to support the action completed. It was suggested that the feedback to NYSERDA make the case for a coordinator to assist in getting required documentation from the town to submit for approval.

Drinking Water Source Protection

Skip said the State Department of Health and the DEC made a presentation to the Town Board about drinking water source protection. The agencies would be providing technical assistance, determining what contaminants may or may not be around and doing some mapping. The categories would include assessment, creating protocols, timelines and implementation. There is funding available to engage a contractor. The process would take around 18 months to complete and should be redone every 5 years. Zach said there is consensus on this project, but the Village would need to be onboard. Unfortunately the program would be confined to existing water sources, not potential aquifers not yet utilized, such as Winston Farm. It was suggested that the CAC recommend the Town pursue this resource and work with the Village. It was agreed that a

representative of the CAC be assigned to the process in the role of stakeholder. Skip will email the Town Board to indicate the CAC's endorsement of the project.

Harvester update

The Village has bought another harvester although what that means for the Town is unclear. There is still data lacking from the survey of the Village's records of how much vegetation has been cleared and the effects of harvesting. Mike asked if the Village plans on renting the unit to other municipalities, including the Town of Saugerties. It was decided to ask Zach to determine the plan to harvest in the Town's portion of the creek.

Planning Board Report

Carole spoke about the revised plans for the Villa development, scaling back the number of rental units for seniors and introducing market rate townhouses for sale.

Announcements

Skip proposed changing the meeting times to accommodate Zach and Rob who have young children. It was suggested that some reports could be emailed to save time.

Adjournment

Mary moved. Motion passed.

Adjournment at 7:21pm

Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary