

## **Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission**

January 21, 2021

Video Conference via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Task Force members: Skip Arthur, Carole Furman, Patti Kelly, Susan Murphy, Mary O'Donnell, Nicole Roskos, Elizabeth Shafer, Steve Wehr. Representing the Town of Saugerties: Vernon Benjamin, Kathleen Gray, Councilman John Schoonmaker.

**Guest:** Anilla Cherian, CEC Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 5:06 pm by Mary O'Donnell, presiding.

#### **CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE**

**Approval of November 19, 2020 Minutes:** Elizabeth proposed approval, Skip seconded, all in favor.

**CAP Annual Report Projects Review** Draft reports of projects identified in the CAP for implementation and to be included in the Annual Report were reviewed. They included the Vehicle Idling Policy, Climate Resiliency Plan, EV Charging Stations, Energy Audit, Kiwanis Ice Arena Chiller, Community Solar Farm, and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Skip is continuing to work on the draft for LED streetlights, Patti is continuing to prepare the GHG Emissions Report. The Food Scraps Recycling Report draft was tabled. In discussing the CCA drafts, it was noted that the village is discussing participation in the program.

TO DO John will follow up on getting the agreement with Joule Assets signed.

TO DO John will follow up on a Green Fleet Procurement Policy

*At this point, Leslie Surprenant and Mary McNamara joined the meeting.*

**Presentation on the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program** Hudson Valley Regional Council Clean Energy Communities Coordinator Anilla Cherian gave a slide presentation about the CEC program, its high-impact actions, how they align with the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program and how each action upon completion and documentation is awarded certain points. She indicated that NYSERDA grant money will be announced soon, and the NY Stretch program has been added to the CEC high impact actions.

**Climate Smart Actions for 2021** Agenda item was tabled.

Adjourned: 6:50 pm

#### **REGULAR CAC BUSINESS 6:50 pm**

**Present – Members:** Mary O'Donnell, Leslie Surprenant, Marcus “Skip” Arthur, Carole Furman,

**Non - Members:** Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker, Town Assistant Special Operations Coordinator Kathleen Gray, Special Operations Coordinator Vernon Benjamin, Mary McNamara

**Approval of Minutes** - November meeting minutes approved.

**Nominations and Election of Officers** – Chair Mary O’Donnell, Vice Chair Mike Harkavy, and Secretary Leslie Surprenant re-nominated and agreed to continue in their positions.

**Esopus Creek Updates** – NYC Department of Environmental Protection has been releasing turbid water from the Ashokan Reservoir. Turbidity is due to high water from snowmelt and rain eroding clay in the Schoharie creek and reservoir. Draft Environmental Impact Statement addresses turbidity in Kensico Reservoir and alum applications but does not address impacts to the Esopus Creek. Public comment period for modification of SPDES (pollution discharge) permit closes March 16. Town of Saugerties seeks status as an intervenor. Town crafted a resolution opposing the turbid water releases. Public hearings are scheduled for February 4 and March 3, 2021.

**Ecology Course** Leslie Surprenant offered to give a 6-week online ecology course she prepared and delivered for the Town of Saugerties LifeSpring lifelong learning community in the fall of 2020.

**Action:** Leslie will send email to Task Force and CAC to poll interest and possible dates.

**Town Board Report** John Schoonmaker reported that the Town Board issued a resolution regarding the Danskammer Plant.

**Planning Board Report:** Carole Furman reported that a 3-story / 24 unit apartment building is being proposed and the developer is open to installing EV charging stations.

**Adjourn:** 8:00 pm.