

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 18, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Via Zoom

MINUTES

I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Present: Skip Arthur, Carole Furman, Ken Goldberg, Kathleen Grey, Mike Harkavy, Patti Kelly, Susan Murphy, Mary O'Donnell, Nicole Roskos, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Steve Wehr.

Guests: Jim Mays, Melanie Petapis, Catherine Rohr

Meeting convened at 5:04 pm by Mary O'Donnell, presiding.

Welcomed new member of Task Force and CAC, Ken Goldberg.

Approval of Minutes July 21, 2022 Task Force Minutes: Patti Kelly proposed, Carole Furman seconded, all approved.

GHG Inventory & Climate Action Plan

Melanie Petapis, the new Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Coordinator, gave an overview of the GHG Inventory & Climate Action Plan. The CSC will be providing technical assistance. Assistance with the governmental emissions reduction plans will start in fall 2022. The process by which the CSC aids municipalities was explained. The extent of the Town's commitment to the program was outlined. The Community GHG Inventory is to start in spring 2023. The Community Climate Action Plan in fall 2023.

Winston Farm Development

Review of the scoping document for the Winston Farm project has begun. It was recommended that members of the CAC review the scoping document and recommend any changes or improvement to the document to ensure that it is complete. The Town Board has 60 Days to respond to the document. There will be a Town Board public hearing on September 21st at 6 p.m.

Ecological Restoration Grant Program

Partners for Climate Action announced a grant that supports pollinator health and funds a pollinator habitat. It was agreed to move this agenda item to CAC regular business

Planning Board Report

The Denier carwash project and the role of the Town's hydrologist was discussed. The TB will need to hold 2 Public Hearings regarding the requested zoning change.

Announcements

President Biden has signed the Inflation Reduction Act. Suggestions were made as to how the town might use any funds they receive.

Adjournment

Patti Kelly moved that this meeting adjourn; seconded by Elizabeth Shafer; all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33pm. **Next meeting:** Thursday 9/15/2022, 5:00 pm.

II CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Mike Harkavy, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Nicole Roskos, Ken Goldberg, Assistant Special Operations Coordinator Kathleen Gray. **Guests:** Mary McNamara, Jim Mays.

Approval of Minutes from July 17, 2022 meeting – approved

Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2022 meeting – approved

Ecological Restoration Grant – Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley

Presentation by Kathleen Gray

Deadline for grant proposal September 30, 2022

Purpose: To restore local ecosystem

Action: Agreed to submit for grant to protect pollinators

Pollinator Garden

Pollinators important for biodiversity

Action: Focus on Pollinator Meadow.

Suggestion -start with ¼ acre for Pollinator Meadow at Cantine Field

Maintenance of Meadow an important feature of the plan

Fund landscaping fabric through the grant.

Action: Recommend to Town to apply for grant for Pollinator Meadow

Mary O'Donnell made motion to have Town apply for Ecological Restoration Grant for Pollinator Meadow. Carole Furman second. All approved.

Bee City Resolution

Mary O. Not ready to ask Town Board to adopt Bee City Resolution.

There are many requirements as part of the resolution that are not in place at this time.

All agreed. The statement “Resolution under Review” can be included in the Ecological Restoration Grant application to support the request for funding, if required.

Terramor Project Susan Paynter requested via email to meet with representatives of her group to ask CAC support in mitigating the proposal that is under review by the Planning Board. Agreed to respond and explain that the CAC makes recommendations to the Town Board and does not take a position pro or con on development proposals.

Harvester Update

Zach emailed his report stating that the harvester was out of commission for some time due to a delay in getting parts. It is repaired now. Harvesting began on May 11 and to date it has operated 88.5 hours and harvested 26 tons of vegetation. A GPS screen shot was provided showing where harvesting took place. Mary pointed out the need to harvest where algae forms on the milfoil that is on the surface of the water.

Survey in Town Section of the Creek Presentation Update

Leslie reported: that the last survey was completed in 2020, did not go out last summer (2021).

She wanted to understand impact of harvester work, indicated many variables, noted biodiversity reduced, fewer species of vegetation, no water chestnut plants may be due to protracted turbidity or work of harvester,

Protocol used: Resampled in same sites in channel and weed patches every 200 feet with approximately 30 total sites, or a sample per acre.

Ulster County Environmental Management Council

Mary O'Donnell's third, three-year term as the Town's representative on the council ends in October and she is recruiting for a replacement. She described the responsibility of members and explained that meetings are monthly, last Wednesday of each month 6:30-8:30 pm. In the last two years they have been Zoom meetings. In person meetings take place at SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge. Leslie Surprenant expressed interest.

Alliance for Clean Energy Webinar

Leslie reported review of problems: Not enough trades to do work; supply chain and grid capacity continue to be issues; community acceptance not there; distribution; not making green energy.

Community Food Composting

Mary McNamara reported that contracts are being reviewed. The highway superintendent wants to continue the program. Town is paying for it and Woodstock might be interested in participating. It costs about \$6000 per year. She reported that 1-2 tons per month of compost materials are brought to transfer station. She stated that the transfer station is doing well and breaking even.

Winston Farm Project

Mary McNamara suggested that the CAC recommend to Town and Village to do a Safe Yield Study of different aquifers. She stated that UCPB planner does not see that there is a water problem but an infrastructure problem.

Announcements

Susan Murphy is doing presentation on August 25 at the library on the Plastic Problem.

Motion to adjourn: Mary O. made the motion and Leslie S seconded. All agreed.