

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

October 21, 2021

MINUTES

I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Meeting Start: 7:00 pm

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

Town representatives: Kathleen Gray, Vernon Benjamin

Guests: Dianne Cardona, Thea Kopley

Special Presentation: Public was invited to a meeting for Community Solar Saugerties / Solarize Ulster presentations by Thea Kopley of Common Energy and Dianne Cardona of Power Market. Representatives presented information on community solar and answered questions on the current Community Solar Campaign.

Goal is to sign up to 10 new subscribers to community solar in the Town of Saugerties. This would qualify the town to apply for a \$5K grant to implement climate smart projects. Subscribers get up to a 10% discount on their electric bill and a \$100 Visa card. Ulster County's Green New Deal program also receives \$100 for each subscriber during the campaign.

ACTION: Task Force will again post fliers with Solarize Ulster's website listed for more information.

Approval of September 16, 2021 Task Force Minutes – approved.

Town Board Liaison Report - none

Announcements - none

Adjournment 8:10 pm.

II. CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Meeting Start: 8:10 pm

Present: Mike Harkavy, Skip Arthur, Elizabeth Shafer, Mary Ann Wrolsen, Mary O'Donnell, Carole Furman, Leslie Surprenant, Niccole Roskos

Town Representative: Kathleen Gray

Guest: Mary McNamara

Approval of September 16, 2021 Minutes - approved

Presentation - Mary McNamara: Aquatic Invasive Species Harvesting

Mary M. suggested the CAC, Town and Village hold a joint symposium to share data on the Esopus watershed, aquatic vegetation, and vegetation removal. Data sharing to include information collected in 2017 and 2020. Suggested formation of a working group to coordinate and collaborate on efforts and to develop an Esopus Creek management plan – from Ashokan Reservoir outlet to Hudson River.

Discussion on aquatic harvesting conducted in 2020 vs 2021 ensued. Goals were clearing Eurasian watermilfoil and water chestnuts from beach area and boat channel. Village has data on volume of harvest that has been collected. CAC wants to review data to assess what is being done and what progress has been made.

ACTION: Mary O'Donnell ask Fred Costello to request records from Village of Saugerties.

Winston Farm Development – Proposed large multi-use development is proposed for Winston Farm property. This will be a future focus of CAC through review and public comment process. Town is lead agency.

ACTION: Mary will email SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) handbook to CAC members

Town Board Liaison Report – None.

Planning Board Report Carwash business is proposed for Rte 32 North near Winston Farm area. Site zoned General Business; car wash could be allowed under special use permit. Proposal is to recycle wash water. Town has hired consultant to review project.

Cell tower – Verizon proposes a cell tower on Kings Highway – Tarpon Towers. Strong opposition among cluster of homeowners in vicinity of proposed site. Area is zoned Office and Light Industry.

Announcements – Winston Farm Proposal – Town is inviting CAC to weigh in on energy use, renewables, open space, waste, etc.

Adjournment - 9:10 pm