

Conservation Advisory Commission Meeting

January 16, 2020 at 6:00 pm
Town Hall Rear Conference Room

MINUTES

I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Susan Murphy, Mike Harkavy, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Mary Ann Wrolsen, Patti Kelly. Skip Arthur arrived at 7:00 pm.

Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker, Special Operations Coordinator Vernon Benjamin

Guests: Nicole Roskos, Bill Barr, Edith Bolt. Mary McNamara.

Announcements

Mary O'Donnell announced that she resubmitted for reconsideration the 2010 Community GHG Inventory to the Climate Smart Communities Program for 16 points. If we do get the additional points, we will have 170 points toward the next level, 300 points. Mary explained that there is no limitation on task force members.

On Saturday March 28, the Senior Center is reserved from 11:00 am-5:00 pm for a presentation on Heat Smart Saugerties. There will be two presenters and a list of contractors. No contractors will be present. It was suggested that individuals or business owners who have had heat pumps installed be present.

Vivian Beatrice will do graphic design and administer our Facebook page, but no longer be on the task force.

Superintend Reinhardt is scheduled to attend the March meeting.

Climate Action Plan Implementation

Ice Arena The arena didn't use as much energy as anticipated, and the new roof and insulation will make a big difference in its energy use. A new chiller is on the agenda for the coming year, and we can be sure that it will be as green as possible. ACTION; Patty will follow up with Greg Chorvas and work with Vernon and Kathleen Gray on grants.

Community Choice Aggregate Community outreach will be important. Mary suggested that community outreach via different media be a main agenda item at the February meeting. Patty, Vernon and Elizabeth will work on CCA implementation. A copy of the resolution adopted by the Town Board was requested. ACTION to be taken; John will provide a copy of the resolution.

Community GHG Inventory. It was recommended that we not focus on the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory at the same time because it's a huge job.

Green Fleet Procurement ACTION to be taken: Patty will follow up on this project. It was agreed to change "Green Fleet Procurement" to "Green Fleet Policy."

Vehicle Idling Policy It was agreed that this topic should be included in the Green Fleet Policy. This is for the municipal fleet only, but could be a topic for educating the public.

Procurement Policy It was suggested that the Procurement Policy should be revised to be "more green". John noted that the General Procurement Policy was just adopted for this year, and may not be revisable because orders for the coming year may have been submitted. He suggested that a written policy for employees doing the purchasing is important. ACTION to be taken: John will provide a copy of the current policy to Patty.

School District Food Scraps Recycling Mary McNamara reported that the UC Legislature passed a bill waiting for the County Executive to sign into law: As of March 2020, the bill will require any organization that produces two tons of food scraps per week to send them for composting. Schools use a roll-off direct to the UCRRA, so food scraps wouldn't go to the Saugerties Transfer Station. Mary M. asked if there is any way to offset the cost for the school district for food scraps recycling. Mary O'Donnell pointed out that unless there was an arrangement with the town, the school district is a separate jurisdiction and does not come under the purview of the task force.

Conduct a Government Solid Waste Audit The contract is up in 2020 with UCRRA to take the solid waste. Solid waste does not include sewage sludge; this is a GHG producer. No follow up was initiated at this time.
Climate Resiliency Plan It was suggested that another presentation by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is needed to discuss aligning the work completed by CCE with the PE7 Actions. Resiliency planning is also part of the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

II Regular Business

Meeting started at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2019 meeting No minutes provided.

Election of Officers –

Chair - Mary O'Donnell nominated by Mike Harkavy; Elizabeth Shafer seconded; passed unanimously.

Vice Chair – Mike Harkavy nominated by Mary O'Donnell; Skip Arthur seconded; passed unanimously.

Secretary – Leslie Surprenant nominated by Mary O'Donnell; Skip Arthur seconded; passed unanimously.

Esopus Creek Updates –

Marine Services has indicated it intends to sell its aquatic vegetation harvester in the fall and the Village of Saugerties is considering purchasing the harvester. Mary O'Donnell made a motion that the CAC recommend to the Town Board that it pursue purchase of the harvester jointly with the Village of Saugerties. Mary Anne Wrolson seconded. Motion passed. ACTION to be taken: Mary O'Donnell will send the recommendation to Town Board.

Mary McNamara reported that a draft Environmental Impact Statement pertaining to a modification of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES). The DEC has been releasing turbid water from the Ashokan Reservoir into the Esopus Creek for a number of years. The new SPDES permit will address the turbidity and establish reservoir release protocols. DEP will conduct workshops and outreach in the coming months. Mary suggested an inter-municipal watershed community partnership to facilitate representation and communication with DEP regarding flow protocol development.

Mary McNamara announced a March 5th Ulster Co. Watershed Roundtable from 2:00 to 5:00 PM to identify and discuss what water quality projects need to be completed in the county. \$2 Million in grant funds will be available for implementation of projects. ACTION to be taken: Mary McNamara will draft a request to the Town Board for a meeting to define the town's role with respect to participation in an inter-municipal organization for the Lower Esopus Watershed.

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee – Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker reported that a group of residents is interested and energized to assist in AIS removal in Esopus Creek. John with liaison with the group. Further discussion tabled.

Town Board Liaison Report – new Town Board liaison John Schoonmaker expressed his excitement at being involved with the CAC and interest in seeing CAC resolutions be realized.

Planning Board Report – Carole Furman reported that 2 “glamping” projects are under review.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM