

Conservation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2018
6:00 pm

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, Mike Harkavy, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Mike MacIsaac, Vernon Benjamin, MaryAnn Wrolsen, Susan Murphy.

Guests: Mary McNamara, Jim Mays

Mission Statement

The mission statement on file was adopted unanimously.

Facebook Guidelines

The Facebook Guidelines on file was adopted unanimously.

Residential Organic Waste Program

Mary McNamara, the new coordinator of this program, reported on the program. As of Nov 1st, 2018, the Town of Saugerties Transfer Station will offer bins to store organic waste. A special permit is available for \$15/yr. for residents who do not have a transfer station permit. 5 Gallon buckets are also available for purchase. Saugerties, Woodstock and Shandaken residents are eligible. There will be a new metal bear-proof container will store the organic waste.. All food can be added to the organic waste, but no grease or liquid should be added. The transfer station is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Signs are being printed to inform citizens about which materials are eligible and which are not. Mary O. proposed an informational flyer going out with existing mailings. Vernon will follow up.

Task Force Budget

The annual budget for the CAC is \$700 for the last two years. Mary O. proposes that next year's budget should be \$1700 for the CAC and the CSC. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Public Event Climate Campaign

Carole F had a conference call regarding outreach events with Susan Murphy and Mary O. It was a suggestion that the scope of the event proposed for Spring 2019 should be scaled down and more focused. Mary O. learned that we can only earn 3 points for one public event, not 3 points for each public event. Mary obtained a Blu ray Disc of the documentary, The Human Element, and proposed showing the documentary.

Partnering with Chamber of Commerce

Mannajo Greene will speak at the November Chamber of Commerce mixer.

Tim Guinee will speak about climate change at the Saugerties Chamber of Commerce at Annarellas Wednesday, Oct 24th at 6:30 pm.

Heat Smart Ulster Sullivan and EV Dealers Program

Melissa Everett with Sustainable Hudson Valley would like to have us promote geothermal heating including air and ground source heat pumps. It was suggested that she be asked to participate in to our April 2019 event. Melissa is working on a program to provide information regarding EVs to auto dealers.

CEC \$5,000 Grant Allocation Recommendation

A motion was made to ask for \$2500 of the \$5000 grant be allotted to the CAC for its 2019 budget. Motion adopted unanimously.

Website Calendar Entries

Leslie Suprenant and Vernon Benjamin volunteered to post upcoming events on the website calendar.

LED Street and Off-street Lights Conversion to LED

Mike Harkavy and Skip Arthur reported that the conversion to LED lighting earns 6 points toward certification. There is a possibility for 4 more points next year.

CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Attending: Mary O'Donnell, Mike Harkavy, Carole Furman, Skip Arthur, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Mike MacIsaac, J, Vernon Benjamin, Susan Murphy, MaryAnn Wrolsen.
Guests: Mary McNamara, Jim Mays

Approval of Minutes The September 29, 2018 minutes were approved.

Special Presentation: Glenn Sullivan, Solitude Lake Management.

Eurasian Milfoil and Water chestnut removal options from the Esopus Creek was presented by Glenn Sullivan, Solitude Lake Management.. He works in NY on invasive species, often speaking with the DEC. If an herbicide were applied in the Esopus Creek Fluridone requires 90-120 days of contact, which is a problem due to the flow of the Esopus Creek Aquathol K contains Endothall - only requires 48-72 hours of contact. There are coontail in the creek which is a "heartly native" and could be affected if the milfoil were treated. There are issues with permits. A wetland permit will be necessary.

Q. What are the costs? Are grants available?

A. There are no grants available for milfoil, but perhaps for water chestnuts. It was noted that algae is growing on top of the milfoil.

Q. How about mechanical harvesting?

A. Yes, that is possible too, but it is not effective for milfoil. It may be effective for water chestnuts.

Q. How about mats?

A. It is labor-intensive and the most expensive. Sometimes it can be effective for just beaches areas.

Q. What is an estimated cost of herbicide treatment?

A. \$20-\$40k is a rough estimate A dye study is about \$500. Permitting is \$1500 - \$2500. There is a risk that a permit may not be issued because of the presence of wetlands.

Mary McNamara suggested that the Lion's Club is interested in addressing invasive species. Should we partner with them? A motion was made to get a proposal for a dye study from Glenn Sullivan. Motion approved.

Town Board Liaison Report

There was a specific question if the proposed moratorium on fossil -fuel powered peaker plants will move forward. Mike MacIsaac said there was discussion with the board, but it is not clear that the Town will adopt it.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm