

Conservation Advisory Commission

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Via Zoom

MINUTES

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Present: Mike Harkavy, Carole Furman, Susan Murphy, Elizabeth Shafer, Steve Wehr, Mary O'Donnell, Skip Arthur, Patti Kelly, Nicole Roskos. Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker

Meeting called to order at 5:07 pm by Mary O'Donnell, presiding.

Approval of July Minutes: Patti moved to accept, Carole seconded, all approved.

Saugerties/Solarize Ulster Community Solar

The task force will recommend that the Town Board adopts a resolution at its September meeting authorizing the town to participate in Solarize Ulster. The vendors selected by Ulster County have been invited to attend the task force's September meeting. The Solarize Ulster Campaign has been extended to the end of 2021. A discussion took place regarding details of the program including the timeframe, scoping document, incentives and outreach.

CCA Update

John reported there has been pushback on Facebook against CCA. He also pointed out that the Central Hudson rate for August is now more expensive than the CCA locked-in rate. It was noted that residents have already opted out from the CCA, but they can always opt back in after a waiting period: a billing cycle, one month, possibly two. The preliminary opt-out rate is estimated at about 20% (the usual rate is 10-15%). The next step is for Central Hudson to send out a letter to residents who enrolled in the program.

CEC Clean Energy Communities

A discussion took place regarding the project to be selected for the NYSERDA CEC \$10,000 grant for which the town is eligible having accumulated 3100 points. We are awaiting formal notification by NYSERDA. The two projects discussed are the chiller and an EV for the Police Department. It was noted that there is very limited grant money available through the NYSERDA CEC program with only 10 grants of \$20,000 for the Mid-Hudson Valley municipalities who accumulate 4000 points.

Benchmarking

Carole noted that the town passed the benchmarking resolution. She updated the task force on her work on benchmarking explaining that she is working with Greg Chorvas to obtain needed data. It was suggested that either the Town Clerk or Julie Dunn may be of assistance in getting the data on the number of employees and hours of work. Patti offered to assist.

NY Energy Stretch Code

Adoption of the NY Energy Stretch Code has been postponed by the Town Board given builders' concerns about the possible cost increase incurred by the builders. John is setting up a meeting to get a better grasp of the situation and hopes to move forward. Adoption of the code would yield 1200 CEC points making the town eligible to apply for a \$20,000 grant.

Town Board Liaison Report

John gave a brief update on weed harvesting on the upper creek and will investigate whether there is consideration underway to use the harvester to remove aquatic vegetation from the Hudson River in the Malden area. He will advocate for the harvester to come up thru the town portion of the creek for kayakers and

motorboats. John will request paperwork on the tonnage of milfoil harvested, and on when, where and how long the harvester operated on the creek in 2020.

Discussion of the initiatives sent by Melissa Everett of Sustainable Hudson Valley was postponed to the September meeting. The EV campaign coincides with National Drive Electric Week, September 25 thru October 3.

Adjournment The Task Force meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Present: Skip Arthur, Carole Furman, Mike Harkavy, Susan Murphy, Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer.
Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker.

Meeting called to order at 6:20pm by Mary, presiding.

Approval of the July Minutes Mike moved to accept, Skip seconded, all approved.

Planning Board Report

Carole reported severe technical difficulties during the first "hybrid" meeting of the Planning Board. Discussion ensued regarding these difficulties and possible solutions, including suggestions that the meetings ought to be either all online or all in person. Because of the nature of the Planning Board and the decisions they have to make, limiting the ability of citizens to participate may violate the Open Meetings Law. She also reported on the Catskill Terrace proposed development (an 89 acre parcel) at the corner of Manorville Road and Ralph Vetter Road noting that members of the public voiced objections to the development. She reported that the impacts of the development have been studied and the developer is compliance with requirements. Carole also reported on the proposed development of the Don Avalon property (52 acres). It was noted that neither of these proposed projects are to be considered by the CAC.

Adjournment Mike Harkavy moved to adjourn, Elizabeth Shafer seconded, all approved.
Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Murphy