

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

October 19, 2023 Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE 5:00 pm Start

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Skip Arthur, Nicole Roskos

Approval of September 21, 2023 Minutes

Mary moved to accept with Ken's correction of the spelling of Fehr House. The minutes were approved.

CSC Re-certification Update

Mary sent the Town Facebook administrator flyers to post, which should satisfy that action. She also noted Carole's work on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions report. If accepted it would represent 25 points towards recertification, but reminded the committee that some actions might not be approved, specifically the CCA and Zoning for Protection of Natural Resources.

Mary had technical issues, so Mike asked Leslie to give the EMC Report.

Environmental Management Council report

The bulk of the last EMC meeting was about a technology that produces biogas from waste. It is an internal process without open combustion, and they have been trying to get a trial implemented in Montgomery for 20 years.

Planning Board Report

The developer of the Villa project is working with the Lasher House to try to resolve the issues. Then it will have to go through the Town Board and Zoning process.

Town Liaison Report

Zach said Winston Farm is still in the process of environmental review. Much of the Board's time is now being devoted to issues with the Police Department and the 2024 budget.

Announcements

Skip was in touch with both Senator Hinchey's and Assemblywoman Sharesta's offices to get clarification on legislation addressing the CCA issues. Apparently, there are many moving parts in the certification process for renewables both within New York and out of state. He suggested that a letter to DPS about clarifying verbiage surrounding the 100% vs 50% renewables wasn't as cut and dried as he hoped. He suggested the CAC be more involved with the administrators of the CCA moving forward to avoid confusion rather than expecting a governmental agency to clear up any future misunderstandings. He did commend both elected official's offices for being understanding and responsive.

Kathleen reported that the Hudson Valley Estuary Program recently received a \$50,000 grant and hoped that the Town could apply for funding for the Natural Resource Inventory. She will let the CAC know any progress.

Adjournment

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION 5:51 pm Start

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Skip Arthur

Approval of Minutes

September 21, 2023 Minutes approved.

Invasive Species Grant Program

Mary found a grant program specifically for control of invasive species. It had an application deadline of November 1st, so she discussed it with Kathleen who brought it to the attention of Supervisor Costello. It was determined that much of the harvester's work was done in the Village, who owns the equipment and so the Village grant writer should apply. Since she didn't hear back from the Village it was something to consider for the following year. Leslie added that such projects typically come with requirements for administration and reporting responsibilities that the Village might not be amenable towards.

Announcements

Skip mentioned that Vernon Benjamin was going to be memorialized at the Cantine complex the following day.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm.

Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary