

# CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

June 16, 2022

Via Zoom

## MINUTES

### I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

PRESENT: Skip Arthur, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Mike Harkavy, Patti Kelly, Susan Murphy, Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant. Mary Ann Wrolsen came in near the end.

Before the meeting began, the members reminisced about Vernon Benjamin and how important he was to Saugerties and in our lives and work.

MEETING CONVENED at 5:04 pm by Mary O'Donnell, presiding.

APPROVAL of MINUTES May 19, 2022 Approval proposed by Patti, seconded by Elizabeth; all approved.

LIBRARY PROJECT- Leslie reported that Susan, Nicole and she met with Jen Russell on Tues 6/14, and set the program dates and topics:

Thurs 8/4 Leslie will open with a presentation on climate change

Thurs 8/25 Susan will present on Plastics

Tues 9/13 Nicole will present on Trees and Restoration

Prior programming:

Thurs 7/7 Jen will hold a talk about books on ecology

Tues 7/12 & Tues 7/19 Steve Wehr will present seminars on EVs and EV charging stations.

Description of our programs will be posted on the Library website.

TO DO: Susan to ask Jen whether there will be a flyer suitable for our use.

NYSERDA GRANTS Kathleen reported that the two grants (one for \$10,000 and the second grant for \$5,000) were approved by NYSEDA. Kathleen drafted a press release.

POLLINATOR GARDEN - Leslie reported no updates.

NY STRETCH ENERGY CODE. - Patti asked for update on Town's possible adoption of the code. A discussion on the reluctance to adopt the code ensued.

TO DO: Patti to talk to Building Inspector Alvah Weeks.

TO DO: Investigate NY Stretch 2023.

TO DO: Mary to talk with Zach about having someone come talk to the Board about their concern Alvah and Kevin Brown should be there. It was agreed that it is important that the Town get a good stringent energy code in place, sooner rather than later.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA) - no report; no apparent change in situation.

WINSTON FARM WF) Skip reported that the total capacity of the reservoir is 1.8 MGD (million gallons per day). The Village uses 0.385 MGD. The other totals are in units of thousands of gallons per day, KGD. The Town uses 0.445 MGD (the Town Allotment is 0.650 MGD). The amount in reserve is 0.205 MGD under current agreement. Subtracting Village use, Town Allotment and Reserve from Total Capacity leaves 0.560 MGD. Mike indicated that is that the total amount available for use in future development. A discussion followed related to other considerations such as peak demand, plant downtime, water main breaks and fires. It was noted that the Comprehensive Plan of 2010 made it clear that there should be no adverse effect on the aquifer.

## COMMUNITY GHG INVENTORY

Mary reported that there is an opportunity to fund a Community GHG Inventory. We have the 2010 inventory, now outdated. The HV Regional Council is looking for at least two individuals from the task force to begin in spring 2023 to work one to three hours a week for two months on preparing the inventory. The HVRC will get the data for the region and give it to Saugerties. A discussion ensued raising several questions about the process. TO DO: Mary to invite Kat Carroll, the HVRC Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, to come to our next meeting.

**PLANNING BOARD (PB) REPORT**– Carole reported that the Denier Car Wash issue is being put off until the next PB meeting on Tuesday 6/21. A discussion followed regarding the impact of a car wash being permitted in an area over the aquifer because of the risk of contamination of the water supply. Mike suggested that a memo to the Town Board be sent expressing concerns regarding polluting the water supply and recommending that the area in question not be rezoned to allow for car washes.

TO DO: Mary to send a memo to the TB, cc: Planning Bd. Carole recused herself.

TO DO: Task force members to offer suggestions to include in the memo.

**TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPORT.** No report. Zach was absent because he was attending a wake.

TO DO: Mary will ask him to e-mail his report in advance so it can always be included in our minutes.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dutchess County Car Show is on 7/17 which will include EVs.
- Webinar “Everything You Could Possibly Need To Know About Heat Pumps” on June 22 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm presented by Sustainable HV, " moderated by Marcy Cleveland of HV Green Homes. Free registration:
- The Task Force is now a member of the New York State Assn. of Conservation Commissions.
- Task force will not participate in the July 4 Parade

**ADJOURNMENT** Mike proposed, Elizabeth seconded, all approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.

## II REGULAR BUSINESS

**Present** Skip Arthur, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Mike Harkavy, Patti Kelly, Susan Murphy, Mary O'Donnell, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant. Mary Ann Wrolsen

**Approval of May 19 Minutes.** All Approved

**Updates** Bee City resolution is still under review. An area at the high school for a pollinator garden has not been identified. It was proposed that an area at Cantine Field be considered for the garden.

**Aquifer Protection** Discussed and agreed to issue a memorandum to the Town Board cc: Planning Board recommending no change in the Zoning Law that would allow car washes in the Aquifer Protection Overlay District.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Harvesting** The May 2022 Harvesting Report from the Village was received.

**Announcements** Leslie announced that she will conduct a follow-up survey to the 2020 survey on the harvesting of the aquatic vegetation in the creek.

**Adjournment** Approximately 7:05 pm. All approved