

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

July 17, 2025

Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

Present: Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Ken Goldberg, Mary O'Donnell, Kathleen Gray, Stephen and Elizabeth Shafer, Carole Furman, Linda Armour, Janet and Margarita Asiain, Michelle Aizenstat, Mary McNamara, Kathy Gordon

Approval of June 16, 2025, Minutes

Mike made the motion and Elizabeth seconded. The motion carried.

Town Food Scrap Composting Program

Skip reported that Councilman Mike Ivino had announced a hoped for September launch for a Town food scrap collection/composting project. The Town had applied for the award of two 30-yard roll-offs for food waste to be set up at a yet to be determined locations with potential involvement from the high school. Food scrap handling and transfer permits from DEC had also been sought.

Discussion of DGEIS/PDD Comments

Most of the meeting centered on refining the CAC's formal comments on the Winston Farm Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) and Planned Development District (PDD) proposals.

The group moved chronologically through the draft comments. In the sections on climate change and emissions, they discussed how to frame greenhouse gas thresholds and climate goals to align with state law while pressing for the most stringent requirements. There was debate about language around wetlands protection, clarifying that federal and up-to-date State wetlands delineation are both relevant.

Wastewater treatment occupied a significant portion of the conversation. Members questioned the developer's presentation of data, pointing out the seasonal variability, capacity and risks to the Beaver Kill.

There was a conversation about the classification of open space; whether a certain 69 acre parcel was actually Central Hudson's right-of-way and should actually be included in open space requirements. Stephen presented mapping data suggesting this acreage was mischaracterized. There was consensus to exclude features like campgrounds and golf courses from qualifying as open space, and to advocate for creation of an open space overlay zone before any zoning changes occur. A suggested mapping of that overlay zone was presented. The group also refined definitions such as "forest reserve land" and "conservation status" to avoid loopholes.

Recommendations regarding infrastructure, transportation, and environmental protections were discussed as were concerns about traffic impacts and whether the proposed mitigation measures in the DGEIS were sufficient.

The group also agreed their method for communicating their findings to the Town Board was both accessible and technically rigorous. By the end of the meeting, members had made substantial edits but recognized that further review might be needed before finalizing their submission to the Town Board.

The final version of the CAC comments, submitted via the Winston Farm submittal link and as a printed copy to the Town Board, is [attached in this link](#) as part of the record.

Adjournment

The motion carried at 9 p.m.

Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary