

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

August 15, 2024 Zoom Video Conferencing

MINUTES

CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE 5:00 pm Start

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

Approval of July 18, 2024 Minutes

With corrections noted, Mary moved to accept, Elizabeth seconded. The motion passed.

CEC Community Campaign for Heating and Cooling

The group discussed a Community campaign to promote the adoption of heat pumps for home heating and cooling. Skip and Elizabeth volunteered to assist with vendors and rebates/incentives. Skip would not be the coordinator. Mary pointed out the responsibilities including the coordinator and drafting of a scoping document. Mary shared the template for the Community Solar Campaign for a starting point. The group decided to table finalizing the roles and responsibilities until the next meeting to allow more time for consideration.

CEC Update

Mary said the code enforcement officer updates the point count to 199. She reported that there is a new coordinator named Meena Viswanathan. There was a question if the County's Natural Resource Inventory would cover Saugerties. Mary didn't believe it would qualify for the points. Leslie reported from the EMC that the county did a county-wide Community GHG Inventory from 2022. Mary believes this will qualify for 16 CSC points. The 2022 study showed a 14% reduction in emissions compared to 2010. The group discussed the significance of this data and the potential implications for public health, such as reduced asthma rates.

CEC \$100,000 Grant Update/Press Release

Kathleen said Fred can't spend any money or sign any papers until we have a signed contract with NYSERDA for the 2 EV trucks. It would be probably at least a month, even though it's a pre-approved project.

Central Hudson Fleet Inventory Program

The group discussed two fleet inventory programs offered by NYSERDA and Central Hudson, which could help the town better understand its vehicle fleet and identify opportunities for

electrification. The NYSEERDA program is basically an inventory, which is a list of the different vehicles and departments with 11 categories of information they want for each vehicle. Kathleen said the Central Hudson Fleet inventory projects cost, future maintenance costs, and how much savings can be expected. Kathleen was unsure of each department's plan for electric vehicles. Some of the heavy-duty trucks do not have an EV counterpart. The police force would consider EVs for their 7 unmarked patrol cars. Although Central Hudson's fleet assessment service application is free, the town would have to supply the data.

Mary moved to recommend that the town participate in the Central Hudson fleet assessment program. Carole seconded and the motion passed.

Coordinator Vacancy

Skip reported that Rob Irizarry resigned as coordinator for the task force. After discussion, Carole volunteered to take on the role on an interim basis until the end of the year, with support from Mary and Kathleen.

Pollinator Meadow Update

Leslie and Skip have been working together on the meadow. The sign is installed. They've made a picket fence and will be installing markers for each plot in the border.

EMC Report

Leslie provided an update on the Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan and a resolution from the county requesting support from local communities. Skip moved to recommend that the town sign the resolution endorsing the plan. Mary seconded. Leslie will send the resolution to the group and the vote will take place at the September meeting.

Town Board Report

Zach was not available. The group discussed the recently released draft environmental impact statement for the proposed Winston Farm development. The report is 218 pages and Skip believed the window for public comments was only 30 days. It was Mary's understanding that the Town Board had 45 days to review the draft and submit questions and concerns. Ken believes this will be part of a long conversation between the Town Board and the developers. He said that there are sections on water and traffic that have not yet been completed. Mary noted that the PDD (Planned District Development) zoning change will need to be closely monitored. It was noted that the latest Comprehensive Plan calls for 50% of the property to remain open space. It was suggested that the CAC reach out to Max of Nelson Pope for further guidance. The group highlighted concerns about the scope and timeline for public review, as well as the need to closely examine the plan's potential impacts and the town's zoning considerations.

Announcements

Linda reported that there will be a second Repair Café on October 5th.

Adjournment

Mike moved and Skip seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment at 7:00 pm

Prepared by: Kevin Freeman, Secretary