

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

August 15, 2019

6:00 pm

Town Hall Rear Conference Room

Minutes

Attendees: Mary O'Donnell, Skip Arthur, Vernon Benjamin, Elizabeth Schafer, Mary Anne Wrolsen, Steve Wehr, Carole Furman, Mike MacIsaac.

Agenda Additions Mary requested that two items be added to the agenda: Approval of a letter in support of a NYS Estuary Grant and input into the Comprehensive Plan. Approved unanimously.

CSC Certification Application Based on the 152 points that Mary has documented on the portal, she reported that she anticipates that the town will be certified at the bronze level as a climate smart community by NYS during this round of applications.

Climate Action Plan Follow-up Vernon reported that the town is working on encouraging business owners to install charging stations at their properties. Carole indicated that she would like to see solar panel-powered charging station. Steve stated that Tesla has a program where they will give business owners the charging hardware. The stations are specific to Tesla automobiles.

Grant Applications Update Vernon reported that the town is working on grants for charging stations to be located in the village business area and at the library. A grant application to help fund a chiller for the Ice Arena was not submitted due to the cost of a new chiller. It is anticipated that the town will apply for a grant next year to help fund a generator at the Ice Arena.

Community Choice Aggregate Update Vernon reported that Saugerties was the first site in NY State that Geronimo Energy chose, and they are motivated to help Saugerties become a CCA. East Light Solar could also contribute to the proposed CCA. Mary reported that as a rule of thumb, there needs to be 40,000 accounts to create a CCA. An administrator would be able to combine other towns to increase the accounts. The suggestion about having a presentation by a NYSERDA representative about the CCA program was discussed.

2020 Budget Request Mike will obtain a printout of the actual to-date expenses for 2019 to inform the decision for the 2020 CAC budget request. Identifying programs/projects anticipated in 2020 is needed.

Comprehensive Plan Input Carole requested input from the task force into the Comprehensive Plan in the areas of utilities and energy efficiency, and climate change.

Estuary Grant Support Letter Mary requested that the CAC letter approved via email in support of an Estuary Grant to help support signage at three locations be formally approved. Approved unanimously

II. REGULAR BUSINESS

Approval of July 18, 2019 Minutes. Approved unanimously.

Eurasian Water Milfoil and Water chestnut Removal from Esopus Creek Skip reported that the village is moving forward with work on mechanical harvesting in the beach area and possibly divers. More information will be available next meeting.

Clean Power Event: Mary reported that Betta Broad, Heat Smart Ulster Sullivan, is interested in doing an event in Saugerties on heating and cooling air source and geothermal. It was suggested that there needs to be more than one vendor at an event and there should be one independent presenter objectively explaining heating and cooling with air source pumps, and geothermal (ground source heat pumps) technology. A discussion on a date and time in October for an event was discussed and there was agreement that a Saturday afternoon was preferable. Mike M will check on the availability of the senior center. Elisabeth explained her experience with having the technology installed at her property and was pleased with the vendor chosen.

UC Environmental Council Report. Mary reported that County Executive Patrick Ryan signed the *Skip the Straw Law* requiring restaurants to ask before providing straws to customers. The Public Hearing on Local Law 5 concerning mandatory food scraps composting by large generators was tabled pending further study. Under discussion by the county is mandatory rules for construction of roofs on county buildings and at SUNY to be able to bear the weight of solar installation.

Adjourned 7:50 p.m.