

Conservation Advisory Commission Meeting

March 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Online Zoom © Meeting

MINUTES

I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE start 6:06 PM

Meeting conducted online via Zoom © due to COVID 19 “social distancing” requirements

Present: Mary O'Donnell, Mike Harkavy, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Patti Kelly, Skip Arthur, Steve Wehr, Nicole Roskos, Mike MacIsaac

Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker, Special Operations Coordinator Vernon Benjamin

Assistant Special Operations Coordinator Kathleen Gray

Guests: Malcolm David Bliss and Ray Zarccone, Common Energy

Climate Action Plan Implementation Malcolm Bliss and Ray Zarccone presented a slide show information session on the community solar project recently completed by East Light Solar under contract with the town of Saugerties and located on the former Town of Saugerties landfill on NYS Rte. 212. The project is part of New York State's Community Solar Program. Energy produced by the solar array produces no carbon emission and will be sold to Central Hudson, resulting in a credit equal to a 10% cost savings. Energy allocation is 40% for town facilities and 60% available for 250 resident homes. Full residential utilization of the power saves an estimated 1,000,000 pounds of carbon dioxide released to the atmosphere each year (each residence releases about 4,000 pounds annually). Enrollment is online through the Central Hudson portal or directly through Common Energy <https://www.commonenergy.us/rep/rzarcone>.

Community Choice Aggregate (CCA) – CCAs are programs that allow local governments to procure power on behalf of their residents, businesses, and municipal accounts from an alternative supplier while still receiving transmission and distribution service from their existing utility. Joule and Good Energy are companies that administer CCAs under contract in this region. TF members agreed that presentations from each of these companies would help T.F. members learn more about forming and implementing a CCA.

ACTION to be taken: Mary O'Donnell will contact Joule and Good Energy and request an online presentation to the T.F. in April and May, if possible.

Climate Resiliency Plan - PE7 Actions – Resiliency It was suggested that the Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop actions listed in Community Resilience Building Workshop - Summary of Findings January 2020 (Cornell Cooperative Extension). This report may list completed actions that can be listed by the TF as completed actions. Documented completed actions will bolster the town's efforts toward a higher level of certification as a Climate Smart Community.

PE 9 Actions - Education and Engagement – An informational poster on the Hudson River rise developed and posted by Skip Arthur is an action that under PE9. It was suggested that the information poster be further disseminated.

ACTION needed: All T.F. members - Review report for what documentation is required. Check to see if the CRB Workshop report qualifies for additional points toward a higher Climate Smart Community certification level. <http://www.climatesmartsaugerties.org/downloads/community%20resilience%20workshop%202020.pdf>

Green Fleet Policy John Schoonmaker reported that the vehicle idling policy was incorporated into the vehicle use policy and is under the town's legal review. It was noted that NYS prohibits idling of heavy vehicles for more than five minutes except for warm up and critical uses that require longer vehicle idling.

II Regular Business 7:30 pm

Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2020 meeting – draft meeting minutes were not complete. Will be presented for approval at April 16 meeting.

Esopus Creek Updates – John Schoonmaker reported that the town will partner with the village on purchase and use of a used aquatic vegetation harvester. It is expected the village will own the harvester and the town and village will coordinate training and operation.

Town Board Liaison Report – John Schoonmaker – nothing new information to report other than harvester.

Planning Board Report – John Schoonmaker – Town of Saugerties has contracted with a new planner with Nelson, Pope and Vorhees LLC who has environmental expertise.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm