

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

January 20, 2022

MINUTES

I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE (CSTF)

Virtual Meeting Start: 5:15 pm

Present: Steve Wehr, Vernon Benjamin, Nicole Roskos, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Elizabeth Shafer, Patti Kelly, Carole Furman, Mary O'Donnell, Mary Ann Wrolsen, Kathleen Gray, Zach Horton (new liaison from Town Board).

Approval of December 2, 2021 Task Force Minutes – Motion made by Mary O. Patti K. seconded. All approved.

Community Solar: Saugerties/Solarize Ulster Update – Received NYSERDA email stating Town was approved for its Community Solar Campaign. An email from NYSERDA will follow awarding the Town a \$5000 grant. Need to respond to NYSERDA with plan to expend the grant. Kathleen Gray will fill out the application within three months of award notification as to plan. Projects being considered: EV for Police Department, Chiller for Ice Arena, Energy Efficiency project at Town Hall, Upgrade kitchen appliances at Greco Center. Upgrading kitchen appliances at the Greco Center was considered to have most public impact.

CEC Program Updates – Action pathway: 4000 points needed to meet the point requirements for the \$20,000 grant. The Town has accumulated 3400 points to date. It appears that there may not be more CEC grant monies available at this time. It is important for the Town to adopt the Stretch Energy Code before June to become eligible for 1200 points. Zach Horton suggested that the Town host a forum or workshop targeting builders and interested public. He would recommend that to the Town Board.

Town of Saugerties Climate Action Plan Annual Report: Mary O. will create the framework for the report around the high- impact actions the Town has completed in 2021 after Patti has collected the energy usage for this past year from the various departments for the buildings each department is responsible for. Carole F will take energy usage data and determine the Town's GHG (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) for 2021. (Note: Central Hudson KWH and Natural Gas accounts appear to have erroneous data and may skew our GHG emission data.

Winston Farm Development Proposal <https://winstonfarm.com/document-center/> Skip Arthur and Mike Harkavy have agreed to chair the CSTF/CAC committee charged with reviewing the proposal. We have asked the Town for the CSTF and CAC to be considered "interested parties" when reviewing the scoping document. Discussion: water usage, water protection and water rights are important issues to be understood as the scoping process begins.

Adjournment – Patti K. made the motion and Nicole R. seconded. All approved.

Next Meeting Date: February 17, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

II CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Virtual Meeting Start: 6:15 pm.

Present: Elizabeth Shafer, Vern Benjamin, Carole Furman, Nicole Roskos, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Mary O'Donnell, Mary McNamara (later), Mary Ann Wrolsen, Councilman Zach Horton (until about 7:20 pm.)

Approval of December 2, 2021 Minutes – approved (Elizabeth S.; Skip A.)

Tree Preservation: Nicole R. presented her review of tree ordinances (New Paltz, Mt., Kisco, Rhinebeck; Red Hook, Woodstock). Once we have Tree City status we then can apply for grants. She reported that Tree City USA designation requires: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, having a \$2 per capita budget for trees, and celebrating Arbor Day. She presented an opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 grant to acquire trees for planting in conjunction with Arbor Day. Nicole stated that communities are eligible to apply for the grant if they intend to work toward Tree City USA status. She indicated that she will work on the grant application. Vernon B. noted that trees are an important factor in removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and that trees provide shade.

Bee City USA: There is a \$200 application fee to become a Bee City USA. Kate Hagerman from Catskill Mountainkeeper is looking for the Town to become Bee City USA. The Town Board would need to pass a resolution to become a Bee City, establish a committee and plant a pollinator garden. Zach Horton said he would help with language to set up resolution that he would bring to the Town Board. Mary O will forward the names of CAC members who are interested in the program to Kate Hagerman. (Leslie, Elizabeth, Carole, Nicole).

Winston Farm Proposed Development <https://winstonfarm.com/document-center/> Mary M. reviewed the DOH and DEC information on the aquifers under the property. We could ask for assistance from DOH and DEC with identifying parameters of water shed impacting community drinking water. A discussion on ownership of the well heads took place. Clarification on the ownership is needed. Mary M. gave the website for information: www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/115250. With NY Rising grant, Village contracted with Paul Rubin in 2018 to do a groundwater exploration of this farm. Mary M. reported that DEC provides a grant for land acquisition to assist in public water quality improvements.

Annual Elections: Mary O. accepts coordinator of the CTSF and chair of the CAC. Mike Harkavy will be vice-chair and interim secretary is Carole Furman.

Invasive Species: Leslie S. plans to do same survey of Esopus Creek and presence of invasive species she did in 2020 to understand the effectiveness of the harvester work done in the creek this past season. It is important to review the harvester data collected by the Village last year (a visual account). John Schoonmaker had sent emails requesting the Village for the harvester data. To date there has been no response. Leslie has a presentation she would like to give the Village of her survey data she collected in 2020. No response has been made. Discussion had about Town acquiring another harvester to work on Town sections of creek. Since it is the same creek it would be important to coordinate with the Village on this.

Town Planning Board – No report made.

Town Board Liaison Report – Zach Horton is our new Liaison with the Town Board.

Announcements – Fred Costello’s dad’s memorial to be held at Seamon-Wilsey Funeral Home on Sunday, 1-23-22 between 2 pm and 4 pm, and 7pm and 9 pm.

Adjournment: 7:40 pm.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2022 at 5:00 pm.