

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

May 19, 2022

Video Conferencing on Zoom

MINUTES

I CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Present: Skip Arthur, Carole Furman, Kathleen Gray, Zach Horton, Patti Kelly, Mike Harkavy, Susan Murphy, Nicole Roskos, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Steve Wehr, Mary Anne Wrolsen.

Guest: Kate Hagerman of Catskill Mountainkeeper

Meeting Start at 5:02 pm by Vice chair Mike Harkavy, presiding.

Approval of April 21, 2022 Minutes

Approved with the following corrections:

- 1) Kathleen Gray, not Grey.
- 2) Add Mary Ann Wrolsen among those present.
- 3) The first sentence "The CAC is going to recommend that the Town Board adopt the goal of the Comprehensive Plan Committee for 50% of the parcel to be devoted to open space" should be "at least 50%."
- 4) The sentence "A Planned Development District (PDD) ideally is a good thing" does not reflect where the task force stands. Delete that sentence.
- 5) The Winston Farm is zoned as General Business, Moderate-Density Residential, Aquifer Overlay, Gateway Overlay and Scenic Protection Overlay districts.
- 6) Delete the following sentences: "Do zoning changes come before or after the SEQR process? Elizabeth moved to accept the Minutes as amended, Skip seconded. All in favor except Mary Ann who opposed and Carole who recused herself.

CCA Update

The issue regarding Columbia Utilities intent to withdraw from its contract to supply 100% renewable energy to town residents and small business owners and to the other communities that are part of Hudson Valley Community Power was discussed. The towns of Saugerties and New Paltz are asking the Public Service Commission and NYS Attorney General to deny Columbia Utilities request to return customers to Central Hudson, and the Town Board unanimously passed a resolution enabling the town to initiate legal proceedings against Columbia Utilities.

Winston Farm Development

Issues regarding the process going forward, zoning changes, a positive declaration, building and infrastructure code requirements, a Planned Development District, and the SEQR process were discussed.

CEC Grants Update

The CEC \$10,000 grant application for a complete swap-out of lights to LEDs at Town Hall was submitted and the town is awaiting approval. Once approval is granted and the contract is signed then work on implementing the project begins and must be completed in three years. The CEC \$5,000 grant application for Senior Center kitchen appliances was also submitted and is awaiting NYSERDA approval.

NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act letter was signed by the supervisor.

NYS Association of Conservation Commissions Membership

CAC Membership in NYSACCA is in progress.

Report on Climate Action Educational Program

Leslie and Susan met with Library Director Jen Russell on 5/10. Next planning meeting: Tuesday 6/14.

Tentative plans for presentation at the library on climate-related topics include:

A Thursday in July (date TBD) Overview of Climate Change and Sustainability (Leslie)

Thursday 8/25 Plastics (Susan)

Thursday 9/22 Reforestation (Nicole)

The Task Force members will make the presentations. Library Director Jen Russell will organize the letter-writing effort to support legislation related to the topics discussed.

Report on Ice Rink Chiller Grant

Mike reported that DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, the head of DEC Region 3 and a representative from the County Environmental Commission along with Supervisor Costello and town officials attended a press conference at the Kiwanis Ice Arena in conjunction with the awarding of \$260,000 state grant to replace the chiller at the arena. The new chiller is Freon-free and is expected to reduce electricity usage by 30%

Memorial Dogwood Tree Planting,

The planting of a Dogwood tree in memory of Fred Costello Sr. will take place on Saturday June 4th, 11:00 am at Town Hall. Mike will oversee the program and provide refreshments, Susan will get the plaque. Nicole will arrange for the planting and will speak about why the task force chose to plant a tree as a remembrance.

Announcements

Susan noted that on the Climate Smart Saugerties website under "climate education events" a Beyond Plastics training from Sat May 21 to Tuesday May 24 says "Register, and find out how you can get facts, strategies & tools to start a local group or affiliate." She wanted the Task Force to know that a group she is working with, Citizens Concerned About Plastic Pollution (CCAPP) is already a Beyond Plastics affiliate. Steve explained that he adds items from Manna's activist calendar every month.

The website is set up so that any of us can put something on the calendar; he'll gladly show us how.

Adjournment Patti moved, Steve seconded, meeting adjourned.

II CAC REGULAR BUSINESS

Present: Mike Harkavy, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Carole Furman, Mary Anne Wrolsen, **Skip** Arthur, Nicole Roskos

Catskill Mountainkeeper: Kate Hagerman

Town Board Liaison: Zach Horton not present

Special Operations Coordinator: Vernon Benjamin not present

Assistant Special Operations Coordinator: Kathleen Gray

Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2022 meeting – approved

Bee City USA Presentation

- Pollinators important for biodiversity

- Started by Xerces

- Encourage planting of native plants, reduce use of pesticides; conserve native pollinators

- New Paltz local city council adopted resolution reflecting above

- Commitments: -Create a pollinator subcommittee

- Become a member of a local pollinator and provide

Volunteers, perhaps with a land conservancy
Gardening clubs

- The pollinator subcommittee responsible for:
 - Create and enhance pollinator habitat
 - Create and adopt integrated pest management plan (IPM)
 - Establish a policy in Town's Comprehensive Plan
 - Host 1 pollinator event per year on native pollinators and how to conserve
- Application fee is based on population.
- Goal is to turn all town owned public lands in Saugerties into pollinator habitats. Even
Though honeybees are not native, they are included in list of pollinators
- Schools still identifying place for pollinator garden
- Neoniks are pesticides that get into plant and into the pollen and create the pathway for killing pollinators.
- NYSDEC's website has main links to information on this topic:
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/44290.html>
- Committee: Surprenant, Schaef and Wrolsen
- Aim is to not use pesticides; only use native species.

Winston Farm Development

- “Open Space” defined as continuous unfragmented land
- Emily Swenson, attorney for Catskill Mountain
 - 50% open space as required in Comprehensive Plan is not enough. Should advocate for 73% open space
 - Groundwater Protection Plan – Steven Winkley should only allow 10% impervious surfaces.
 - Aquifer is 7000 acres. 800 acres at Winston Farm is in the headlands of the recharge area for the aquifer.
 - Village cannot supply Winston Farm with water. They cannot use reservoir.
 - Developers are planning to develop a well.
 - Couple of well tests have been done by developers. We should get information on what those well tests revealed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM: Skip moved, Mary Anne Wrolsen, seconded.