

Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission

July 18th, 2019

Town Hall Conference Room

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

Climate Smart Task Force

Attendees: Mike Harkavy (acting chairman), Patti Kelly, Susan Murphy, Vernon Benjamin, Steve Wehr, Carol Furman, Skip Arthur (Paul Andreassen-town councilman filling in for Mike Maclsaac.

Approval of minutes of June 20th, 2019 meeting- all in favor.

Mike Harkavy: Concerned about certification applications, grants, etc.. (general discussion)

Vernon Benjamin: Explained the Climate Smart grants (in general terms).

Mike Harkavy: Discussed the Community Choice Aggregation and looking closer at how , as a Task Force, the group can take this on and focus on its implementation.

Steve Wehr: What else could we work on? What could we do to work toward full implementation, how to promote and educate the public regarding the CCA?

Patti Kelly: Have a process to open a dialogue with the public and administrators. Work with all surrounding municipalities to reiterate the opt out option and that **nothing will be forced** on the end users.

Steve Wehr: The choices are overwhelming - - saving energy money should be the main bullet point.

Carol Furman: Concur---but can the second bullet point be local control? All in agreement.

Mike Harkavy: Convince the public that Central Hudson's role is as the delivery component. People are easily confused and that service will not be interrupted. Need to make that clear.

Skip Arthur: Will the cost be on the utility bill or a separate bill?

Vernon Benjamin: Explained the separation of billing. Administrators will have to explain to the public. Once an administrator is chosen at least three months of public information outreach and public hearings will need to take place.

Mike Harkavy: Do we need 80,000 metering sites for this to be implemented?

Vernon Benjamin: Whether we have 20,000 or 37,000 meters in Saugerties (the group generally thought it was closer to the 20,000 number) we will need others to join in and the administrator will have to guide the process.

Patti Kelly: Explore Saugerties being a sole user.

General discussion on that topic

Steve Wehr: Concerned that the cost benefits are worthwhile. General discussion. Present the proposal as a single town option to the board (the Town Board) and explore the reality of the possibility of being a sole user.

General discussion regarding joining Mid Hudson Valley energy consortium.

Patti Kelly: What are the pros and cons (upside and downside) on going it alone?

Mike Harkavy: Recommended that Vernon Benjamin conduct some phone calls and request from some existing administrators as to the prospects of the town going it alone?

New Business:

Susan Murphy: Passed around information on recycling of textiles from the Re-clothe New York Coalition. A list of acceptable items included. The note also stated (at the bottom) that towels, blankets and the like can also be donated to the Animal Shelter (they can be brought to Happy Paws where there is a collection box).

Carol Furman: Will discuss topics concerning the Town Planning Board at next month's meeting.

Vernon: Reported on the town receiving a check for \$16,000 which is compensation (or rebate) monies from the installation of the electric car (EV) charging station(s). It was unclear whether it was a rebate or a grant payment.

Mike Harkavy: The 'acting chairman' stated there would not be a quorum for regular business and adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Andreassen

Acting (recording secretary) for Mike Maclsaac