

Conservation Advisory Commission Meeting

March 18, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Online Zoom © Meeting

MINUTES

March 18, 2021 via Zoom

CLIMATE SMART SAUGERTIES TASK FORCE (TF)

Present: Task Force Members: Skip Arthur, Vernon Benjamin, Carole Furman, Michael Harkavy, Patti Kelly, Susan Murphy, Mary O'Donnell, Nicole Roskos, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Steve Wehr, Mary Ann Wrolsen

Representing Town of Saugerties: Kathleen Gray, Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker

Approval of Minutes Mary Ann Wrolsen to be added to list of attendees in February 18, 2021 Task Force Minutes. Mary moved to approve as amended; Patti seconded; all approved.

Community Solar (CS) and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

TF discussed CS as part of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA.) TF and Conservation Advisory Commission recommended at last meeting Town Board approve opt out feature for CCA. Following a 3/17 presentation from Joule (CCA administer) to the Town Board a few TF members expressed concern that the Joule representative did not clearly delineate between CS and CCA and identified potential public confusion between Community Solar – individuals purchasing energy from a solar farm - and Saugerties residents receiving electricity through renewables once a CCA is in place. TF agreed Joule needs to present a clearer explanation of the differences between CS and CCA in future presentations. Mary to contact Joule representative to suggest a stronger clarification and delineation between CCA and CS.

Clean Energy Communities (CEC) High Impact Actions TF goal is to accumulate 3000 points in the CEC program for the town to obtain a \$10,000 grant. The town has 900 points. High Impact Actions were identified at the February TF meeting. The following are updates on the identified actions:

- LED Lighting – Town signed certification that the LED light conversion is complete, qualifying Town for 700 points. Mary will upload information into portal to secure points.
- EV Charging Station – Town signed certification that EVCS are installed qualifying Town for 100 points. Mary has uploaded information to portal to secure points.
- Electric Vehicles – Police Chief's EV has been documented and certified.
- Energy Code Enforcement Officer Training – Training for code enforcement officer will qualify for 200 points.
- CCA – successful implementation and documentation will qualify Town for 1500 points. Skip and Mike are tracking this.
- NY Stretch - Kathleen is working on a CEC \$5K Grant Program thru NYSERDA (NYS Energy Research and Development) that will result in an additional 1200 points if the Town adopts the new NYStretch Code. NYSERDA developed NYStretch as a statewide model code for New York jurisdictions to use to meet their energy and climate goals by accelerating the savings obtained through their local building energy codes. For jurisdictions that adopt it, NYStretch will provide savings of roughly 11% over the 2020 Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State (2020 ECCCNY) when that energy code is released by New York State Department of State (DOS.)

A presentation to the Town Board has been scheduled for 4/21. If the Board adopts the code, it must be filed with DOS within 30 days. Deadline to adopt is December 31.

- Benchmarking - Carole is working on benchmarking and will use data provided by Patti. Benchmarking completion and documentation will qualify the Town for 100 points. Posting on the Town's website will add 200 points.
- CCA Outreach – public outreach is underway. One information session was held and two more are planned. Several TF members have been working with the program manager. TF stressed the need to clarify the difference between CCA and CS. TF members were asked to conduct their own outreach via email, flyers, etc.

Multi-Family EV Charging Stations – Steve and Carole attended Planning Board to discuss proposed building code for EVCS at new multi-family developments that Steve crafted. Planning Board will review and forward its recommendations to Town Board. Discussed EVCS proposal relative to potential NYStretch building code which may complicate the issue. John will get the proposal on the agenda for the first meeting in April.

Patti moved that the Task Force recommend that the Town Board adopts Steve / TF's EVCS proposal. Elizabeth seconded. All approved.

Town Board Liaison Report – John reported that the Police Reform Report, arrived at by consensus in a diverse group, was adopted unanimously. They are already making progress with the Chief and training one of the officers.

Mary recommended that the Town Board adopt a benchmarking policy; John will follow up on this.

Patti moved to adjourn. Elizabeth seconded. All approved. Adjourned 6:10pm.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES

Regular CAC Business 6:15 pm

Present – Members: Skip Arthur, Vernon Benjamin, Carole Furman, Michael Harkavy, Mary O'Donnell, Nicole Roskos, Elizabeth Shafer, Leslie Surprenant, Mary Ann Wrolsen
Representing Town of Saugerties: Kathleen Gray, Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker

Non-members:

Approval of Minutes - January meeting minutes approved. No February meeting minutes due to lack of quorum for meeting.

Ashokan Reservoir Releases – Esopus Creek – Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period has been extended to June 16, 2021. Discussion – should CAC send a letter? If so, what should it say? Town of Saugerties has prepared a draft resolution calling for an end to turbid water discharges, a continuation of regular required releases at 2 to 5 million gallons per day for conservation and recreational flow and to codify the releases as a permit condition for releases by NYC Department of Environmental Protection from the Ashokan into Esopus Creek.

Proposed Ashokan Reservoir Pump Storage Project – The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a preliminary permit (Permit # P-15056-000) to a developer to investigate the feasibility of developing an underground pump storage hydroelectric project using water in the reservoir. FERC is taking public comments through 4/12/21. Several CAC members reported seeing a presentation by Ginger Strang sponsored by Phonecia library. Ms. Strang authored a book on hydropower and is an amateur hydroelectric authority. Presentation was recorded for public viewing.

ACTION ITEM: Leslie Send link to recording of Ms. Strang's presentation (done - Mary)

Adjourn: 7:15 PM