



**Town of Poughkeepsie
Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC)**

**November 26, 2018, 5:00 PM
Main Meeting Room, Town Hall**

CAC members present: Margaret Slomin, Pamela Kingsley, Kerstin Cruger,
Wendy Greggs, Susan Karnes Hecht

Guests: Carl Whitehead, Chairman, Planning Board
Eric Hollman, Town Planner

Original CAC resolution content

Kerstin reviewed original content from 1979, wondered if we need to ask town board to amend as content seems different from what we originally discussed, concerned about making it specific. Susan doesn't want to get hung up on that process, concerned that we have very different issues in 2018 and asked what is mechanism by which this could be done? Eric said may not be necessary if content is not antithetical to our goals. Over the course of the meeting there was consensus that the existing resolution is adequate at this time. The charter does indicate that the CAC Chair role needs to be appointed by the Town Board. Pam continues to be willing to serve in this role, we need to advise the Board of the need to formalize.

Discussion of need for open space inventory, this was originally suggested as a CAC focus

Carl said the Planning Board has consultants including environmental consultants. Open space inventory would be helpful. Would reach out to us with additional questions.

Eric said that Hudsonia previously completed a biodiversity survey for region, a detailed map and resource considerations, also turtle habitat for endangered species. Is on town website, Eric can assist us if we can't locate.

Pam spoke with Matt from Town of Wappingers, he is writing comprehensive plan for his town, it has a natural resource protection section he shared as a model. There was a Dutchess county natural resource inventory done 2010, available online. Seems to cover open space. Defines open space and its values, benefits. Very few large parcels fall within our town. A great starting point for our own inventory. Find this at:
<http://ccedutchess.org/environment/natural-resources/natural-resource-inventory-nri>
Town is also working on a master/comprehensive plan, this is not yet fleshed out. Susan noted it will be important for us to liaison with master plan folks. We need to find out how the inventory can best be structured to be as helpful as possible to the master plan. Mike is principal staff contact. Bill Carlos is committee chair (Ward 2 rep). Eric will speak to Mike to help us make this connection. We need to understand, not duplicate, their efforts. Pam also has some information from Dutchess Land Conservancy.

Margaret is interested in working on this area.

Planning Board information (PB)

Margaret asked Carl what he sees as our role apropos of the PB at this time. Carl envisions us taking responsibility for larger town issues such as open space inventory, trails, etc. Projects-based to help support the PB.

Town Parks

Pam spoke with Tom Meyering, Parks/Rec Director. They went to see Peach Hill Park. A passive use old orchard, highest point in town. Upkeep handled by Friends of Peach Hill which is an established non-profit. We could see CAC partnering with Friends to both increase park use and make CAC better known. Pam shared some of Tom's vision for this property. Looking for assistance with creating educational materials regarding the park, also interested in creating a trail along Wappingers Creek.

Susan asked how this model can be used for local pocket parks – within a neighborhood. Kerstin suggested developing “park ambassadors”, an idea which met with enthusiasm. Margaret said that one goal would be to residents' knowledge of local resources.

Wendy contacted her ward rep Jessica Lopez, who wrote a grant to make Overocker Park handicapped accessible. Wendy is going to meet with Jessica this week, will bring back info that we can incorporate for other parks.

Climate Smart

Susan learned from Mike Welti that Jay Baisley has been functioning as Climate Smart “point person.” Mike suggested that Susan, Jay, and he should meet to help pin down where actions and documentation stand. EMC has an individual available to assist us with this.

Other CACs

Susan reached out to Lagrange chair but has not yet received a response. Wendy has a contact in Red Hook and will pursue.

Dutchess County EMC (Environmental Management Council)

Each CAC has a seat on this council. Next meeting is 12/5 at 7 pm, we should attempt to go monthly even if we have to rotate. Susan is available for December, Wendy will find out if she can also attend. We will try to find out the date of the February 2019 CAC Roundtable that is sponsored by EMC.

Review of CCA concept (Community Choice Aggregation)

Susan is in touch with Jeff Domanski (ITBS, the non-profit working on CCA in other regional municipalities) and she has already had an introductory training. We are unclear as to where this stands with the town, although we believe that the board was given an initial presentation. Susan will contact Jeff to discuss status.

Next Meeting

December date falls on the holiday, therefore we decided to cancel and meet next on January 28th at 5 pm, with the understanding that we all have actions to complete in the intervening time. We agreed that we have started to identify and prioritize areas in which we will work as a whole as well as areas of personal interest/focus. At the present time the primary areas seem to include: open space inventory, town parks, and Climate Smart. We have also identified other areas that could evolve over time.

Actions to be completed for January meeting:

- Susan will provide member emails to Eric
- Susan will notify town of next meeting date and reserve room, ask about unlocking
- Susan will send draft minutes for member input, please respond ASAP, then they will be completed and sent for posting on the site; she will also ask that link to meeting info be placed directly on the CAC page (currently posted on town meetings page)
- Susan will provide January agenda prior to 1/28
- Susan will follow up with Jeff Domanski/CCA resource
- Susan will schedule meeting with Jay/Mike to discuss status of Climate Smart
- Wendy will meet with Jessica Lopez
- Wendy will reach out to Red Hook CAC
- Susan will continue to reach out to Lagrange CAC
- Susan will respond to contact from Riverkeeper to ask if rep (Dan Shapley) would like to meet with us to discuss water quality issues
- Eric will contact Mike Welti re: comprehensive plan committee
- Susan will attend 12/5 EMC, Wendy may be able to attend as well
- Susan will contact Jay/Mike to ask that town board agenda include a resolution to appoint Pam as CAC chair, and to renew Margaret and Kerstin

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht