



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

**Tuesday June 25, 2019, 7:30 PM
Conference Room, Town Hall**

CAC members present: Pam Kingsley (Chair), Kerstin Cruger, Susan Karnes Hecht

Guests: Morgan Hayman and Zoe Turner
Student Interns, Vassar Environmental Cooperative

Business items:

- Invasive Species education

Morgan and Zoe presented an overview of an Invasive Species program and shared information about significant pest and plant invasives in our region. They are interning this summer with the support of a grant specific to this area. (Both will be juniors at Vassar this fall.) The goal of the discussion was to plan the best way to disseminate this information within the town. In addition to working with the Vassar Ecological Preserve, outreach for town parks is a high priority for them. It was decided that:

(1) Pam will reach out to Tom Meyering (Parks/Recreation) and Marc Pfeifer (Highway) to connect them to the program. There will be relevant information such as how to avoid carrying contaminants from one area to another on town vehicles.

(2) We would like to host a public event relevant to homeowners, focused on backyard invasives management. The interns have prepared presentations. Susan will contact town to schedule the large meeting room, we hope to set this up for early to mid-August (internship ends 8/16). After this is pinned down, we can get the word out through various means including park organizations, gardening groups, town website and email, Cornell, EMC, social media. Vassar can provide text/flyer for announcement. They are also hosting an invasive species walk at the preserve on 7/20.

- Continue review of Natural Resource Inventories obtained from other municipalities

We have now reviewed several NRIs and have identified common areas/maps as well as more unique topics that some have included. Kerstin will work on populating the next sheet (suggested content for our own NRI), working from the ones that we feel are the most extensive as a model. Once that step is completed, the next task will be to determine what maps are needed and which ones already exist.

CAC member Margaret Slomin reported that she spoke with Michael Welti, Director of Municipal Development, regarding grant status. The Town Board passed a resolution to authorize the application for the Estuary Grant for \$40,000 with the Town support of an additional \$12,000 (30%). The Town would expect to hear notification in the late fall. This grant

Town of Poughkeepsie CAC Minutes
June 25, 2019

would be to support the NRI. The Grants Department would like us to authorize a letter of support should it be required for the application.

Updates:

- Climate Smart Task Force

Susan reported that interviews have been completed, and that a resolution is expected for the July 10th Town Board meeting to form the task force.

- Hudson Valley Food Coalition

Kerstin is pursuing this area. She reported that the Coalition is in an early stage, laying the groundwork and is a very large group covering nine counties. There is extremely significant potential. It is run by the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. They are breaking into groups to identify what they will focus on, and Kerstin joined the climate group. Groups were just launched and will come back together in October. One extremely important connection for us is food waste and composting, which is also relevant for Climate Smart and is a high priority in Drawdown.

Next meeting: Monday 7/29/19 at 7:30 pm (Susan will alert town of change in date)

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht