



TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

Conservation

Advisory Commission

Monday, 4.26.2021, at 7:00 PM
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES (held via Zoom link)

Present: CAC Members: Susan Karnes Hecht, Pam Kingsley, Margaret Slomin, Caroline Fenner, Lorraine Mirabella. Online meeting facilitator: Michael Welti, Town of Poughkeepsie Director of Municipal Development. Guest: Ilona Vinklerova, Ward 2.

Agenda

1. Meeting called to order: 7:01pm.
2. Minutes from 03.22.2021 pending review by Pam and acceptance post-meeting
3. Discussion of projects, current and future. We slowly rolled them out last year with the NRI, "It Takes a Town" and "Pollinator Pathways." We have to decide on topics for future lectures and their frequency, as well as other projects. There seems to be a consensus to take a hiatus from lectures in July and August.

Action: None

4. All members should be getting DEC e-mails regarding grants, etc. We should be conduits to town residents and advocates for our neighbors and for the town, putting forward possible projects consistent with grant opportunities.

Action: Pam will confirm with Nate Nardi-Cyrus that all our members are on List-Serve.

5. We are applying for 2 grants. The first is DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program collaboration with the Landscape Architecture department at Cornell University, the Climate-Adaptive Design Studio (CaD), a senior seminar This is to be presented at the Board's 5/5 meeting as the deadline is 5/10. The second grant is the NYS Environmental Protection Fund's Local Stewardship Planning Program for land

stewardship. Both grants would be for New Hamburg, which has been experiencing significant flooding. Town Supervisor Jay Baisley approved applying for a grant for an engineering survey to evaluate the situation and make recommendations. Other CAC members should learn what could be done in our own wards, e.g., Greenvale Park has an erosion issue?

Action: Pam will help secure the letters of support from residents and elected officials needed as part of these grant applications; CAC and Climate Smart Task Force will supply letters of support.

6. Discussion of how meetings will be conducted going forward. Once the NYS Emergency regulations are lifted, the CAC must meet in person at Town Hall. In regard to lectures, they could be a hybrid or just on Zoom.

Action: None

7. Discussion of the use of social media. Our goal is to have a CAC Facebook page. Pam also wants an Instagram page. Susan and Pam are supposed to get training on using the site and the social media protocols.

Action: Susan will post the flyer on the Climate Smart Facebook page, which gets shared.

8. Caroline proposed doing invites to meetings via Google Calendar whereby everyone can go into the Calendar and click on the Zoom link there.

Action: Caroline will send invite for next meeting.

9. Mike gave an update regarding the NRI and OSP. He said that 6/21@7:00 is the potential date for the next public workshop by MJ. They will discuss primarily the OSP.

10. Susan gave an update on Pollinator Pathways. A lot of towns, churches, and school groups are interested in doing pollinator gardens, including one at Todd Middle School, which she visited. Susan did a press release on the program last week.

Ilona inquired about pollinator planting in the local park in her ward. Susan said the Town belongs to the Pathway and town parks are ideal spaces. The Recreation Department has a list of parks by ward for our information. One could elicit volunteers from the public for this activity. Susan mentioned that DEC sells tree and shrub starts. They are all native and are sold cheaply.

Action: Susan will try to link the various groups so they can communicate. Susan will direct Ilona to the board member for her ward. She will reach out to the Town Board to make them aware of our participation in Pollinator Pathways.

11. Susan gave a Climate Smart update. The NRI is one of the “actions.” It will not be completed and formally adopted by July, therefore, it will be delayed. A lot of “actions” were delayed which was beyond the control of her group.

12. Meeting adjourned: 8:00 pm

Next meeting: Monday, month 05. 24.2021, at 7:00 pm Location TBD

DRAFT VERSION OF 04.26.2021 MINUTES | TO BE APPROVED AT THE 05.24.2021 MEETING