



TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

Conservation Advisory Commission

Monday, 5/23/2022, at 7:00 PM
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES (via the Zoom link)

CAC: Susan Karnes Hecht, Pam Kingsley, Lorraine Mirabella, Margaret Slomin,
Online meeting facilitator: Michael Welti, Town of Poughkeepsie

AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order: 7:03 pm.
2. Minutes from 4/25/2022 approved.
3. Pam reported that Maribeth Rubenstein submitted an email of resignation to Jay Baisley. At the Town Board meeting last week, it was noted there are CAC vacancies in Ward 2 and Ward 4.
4. Update on NRI/OSP: Earlier this month, Pam, Mike and Kristen Taylor met with MJ Engineering, which is behind schedule due to a lack of staffing. MJ committed to sending to the committee by 6/7/2022 a draft of the Open Space Plan and a revised NRI. The sub-committee, along with Ingrid Haeckel of the DEC, will review it by 6/10. On 6/27, MJ will send everything to the entire CAC, attend our meeting, and go over the details. There would be a period until mid-July for comments. MJ might possibly have the OSP/NRI completed in time to have it submitted to the Town Board in September.
5. Margaret did not make a presentation on her topic. She promised to send a detailed email to members before the June meeting.
6. Update on the New Hamburg Grant (from Oct 2021): It is proceeding on schedule, as far as state grant money goes, according to Mike
7. Susan updated us on a few topics. In regard to Pollinator Pathways, the Town Parks Department's goals mesh with our goal. They have acquired a roto-tiller. Each Ward has identified the location for a native planting. Dates are being set up when she and Margaret will meet with Jan McHugh at the sites and determine where to till. Peach Hill Park, the Senior Center, and Riverfront Park in New Hamburg are among them. Jen Rubbo of the Vassar Farm Cooperative gave Susan 25 pots of natives for use in these plantings. Adams has promised 12 pots. Pam may donate some trees/shrubs obtained via the DEC tree-seedling program, if she has extras. Susan mentioned an endeavor gaining traction in some areas called "No May Mow," wherein property owners desist from mowing in May for the benefit of pollinators. She raised the difficulty in our Town, wherein the Zoning Board issues violations for residents' failure to mow their lawns. She

said neighbors call in and report neighbors.

In regard to Climate Smart, as a result of completing four actions, the Town earned two grants, the purpose of which is to further the work of CS. The paperwork is pending. A \$15,000 grant is reserved for one of the Town's pre-approved projects. One possibility is to use it toward the purchase of an electric vehicle, especially since chargers are coming. The other grant could possibly be used for the benefit of small business owners. On 5/31, Susan and Ann Shershin are meeting to discuss the grants with Jay Baisley.

8. The Arlington Street Fair was brought up but, as of yet, we do not have the date.

9. Meeting adjourned: 7:33 pm

Next meeting: Monday, June 27, 2022, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall. The July meeting is canceled.