



**Town of Poughkeepsie  
Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC)  
October 22, 2018 at 5:00 PM  
Supervisor's Conference Room (Town Hall)**

**CAC Members Present:** Pamela Kingsley, Susan Karnes Hecht, Margaret Slomin, Kerstin Cruger

**Absent:** Wendy Greggs

**Guest:** Shannon Fatum, Dutchess County Environmental Management Council

Shannon was invited to provide us with additional guidance concerning the role of the CAC and our resources. Following are highlights of the discussion:

- The EMC's mission is to advise the Dutchess County Legislature on environmental issues. Each town CAC has a seat on the EMC. We are welcome to attend monthly meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Farm and Home Center in Millbrook). We can appoint a specific liaison.
- The EMC hosts an annual CAC Roundtable (usually February at Cornell Cooperative Extension) to foster exchange of information and promote cooperation. Dutchess has approximately 12 towns, 7-8 of which have a CAC, some are inactive. A few groups are particularly active and may be mentoring resources for us:
  - Rhinebeck CAB
  - Lagrange CAC
  - Millbrook (Village) CAC
  - Washington CAC
  - Red Hook CAC (see website)We should also connect with Wappingers
- Shannon discussed the differences between a CAC (Council) and CAB (Board). In summary, the CAC is advisory, while the CAB has authority equivalent to that of the Planning Board apropos of proposed projects. It is important for us to proceed with defining our individual roles within our CAC.
- We understand that the Town has already fulfilled some actions related to the Climate Smart Pledge but do not know the status of formal documentation. Cornell Cooperative Extension has a person whose job it is to assist communities with Climate Smart Documentation. This is an appropriate area for us to explore.

In addition to the discussion with Shannon, we reviewed potential CAC projects. Items of particular interest include:

- The needed open space inventory, for which we already have some resources.
- An assessment of our 20 town parks. A positive way to start introducing ourselves to town residents would be via informal, family-oriented events; plan engaging activities without controversial content. We should first contact the various ward members of the town council to get input on the parks within their wards.

CAC positions: to be voted on formally in November.

- Pam agreed to take on the chairperson role for the time being.
- Susan agreed to function as recording secretary (agendas and meeting minutes).

Responsibilities for November meeting:

- Pamela will reach out to Dutchess Land Conservancy to explore opportunities to work together; will reach out to Wappingers (Matt); will contact Tom Meyering (Park Facilities/Program Director) to get input about the town parks.
- Kerstin will obtain the correct original resolution/existing CAC charter to better define our mission. We would like to understand our responsibility, if any, to the Planning Board.
- Margaret will start to research information about the open space inventory.
- Susan will follow up with scheduling a Planning Board representative to attend our November meeting; will follow up with Mike Welti to identify current Climate Smart “point person” for the Town (if any); who is currently communicating with the DEC re: documentation of actions accomplished? Will determine if there is any required template for our agendas and minutes; will reach out to Lagrange CAC chair.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht