



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

**Monday, February 24 at 7:00 PM
Conference Room, Town Hall**

Minutes

Present: CAC Members Kerstin Cruger, Susan Karnes Hecht, Pam Kingsley, Lorraine Mirabella and Margaret Slomin. Guest, John Pinna.

- Minutes from 1.27.20 meeting were approved
- As part of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Town Historian, John Pinna will have his interns provide a list of existing documentation for the CAC to assess regarding information about Historical Features in the Town such as: structures, cemeteries, private burial grounds and Native American sites of interest (Bowdoin Park largest area in the Town – hunting ground, fishing ground, cliff dwellings). Mr. Pinna will also consider what he as Town Historian would like to see included in the NRI.
 - **Action:** The CAC will evaluate the list to determine if the existing documentation will fulfill the needs of the NRI or if there are gaps that need to be filled in the information already available.
- The CAC clarified procedures to ensure the integrity of the group now and into the future. Kerstin Cruger was appointed Acting Chair in the event the Chair, Pam Kingsley cannot attend a meeting. Meetings will only take place if at least a minimum of three members are in attendance based on the current five-member structure.
 - **Action:** Pam will check with the Town to get clarification on which room the monthly meeting of the CAC is to take place. The group will work on an internal procedures document to maintain the integrity of the CAC.
- Susan's discussion with the Town Supervisor regarding public engagement was very positive and offered the group the possibility of creating some informational/marketing materials.
 - **Action:** The group will explore developing a rack card or brochure to be made available in Town buildings and at events. Susan will look into if the DCC service-learning program would be available for CAC to have some graphics made.
- Margaret reported that the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club (<https://watermanbirdclub.org>) is willing to give presentations in partnership with the CAC. Possible topics include general interest around birding and how to make your yard more bird friendly. The

group is looking at an event to be held in May. The CAC is excited to work with the Waterman Bird Club on this and possible future presentations.

- **Action:** Margaret will explore venue possibilities for this spring. Possible spaces include the Senior Center, library, Town Hall and Vassar Environmental Cooperative Barn. Margaret will continue the conversation with the Waterman Bird Club and report back any progress.
- Susan reported that Michelle Gluck presented the Climate Smart Planning Tool and Assessment to the Town Board. This allows the group to identify next steps and create some fixed goals to start working toward. The Climate Smart Task Force anticipates certification to be complete in early 2021. The task force recently received local media coverage including an interview with Susan on News 12.
 - **Action:** No action required.
- Pam wrote a letter of support for the invasive species grant. This is the same grant that gave the CAC an opportunity to partner with the grant recipients to offer a presentation to the Town in 2019.
 - **Action:** The CAC will pursue another program through this partnership for 2020.

Next meeting: Monday, March 23 at 7:00 pm

FINAL VERSION OF 2/24 MINUTES | APPROVED AT THE 4/27 MEETING