

## Taghkanic Conservation Advisory Committee

May 19, 2016 Minutes

Attending: Valerie Hoffmann, Zita Kobos, Anna and Larry Kadish, Charlene Paden, Joyce Thompson

1. **Columbia County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Meeting** – Larry Kadish reported on a solar panel discussion. National solar companies are apparently approaching Columbia County landowners about setting up “solar farms” on their land. Landowners should be cautious as they weigh all the pros and cons before making a decision. Consider the following:
  - Lands with agricultural exemption may need to pay back taxes if they produce electricity.
  - There is no payout until all approvals are gained and the entire system is installed.
  - It is advised that you get a lawyer to negotiate terms of the contract.
  - Siting is extremely important. Consult with an environmental expert, as well as town zoning commissioner.

What is the role of the CAC in this matter? To raise awareness.

**ACTION:** Joyce will write up her notes from the EMC meeting and distribute them at the June 11 Town Board meeting.

### 2. **CAC Nature Walks**

- The May 7<sup>th</sup> walk at the Blechman’s was terrific. Much diversity. Gretchen was an extremely good guide.
  - Next walk will be Saturday, September 17, 1 PM at the Kobos’ property
  - Other possible CAC walk locations: Properties of John Marcus, Steve Shutson, Sam Pratt, Moyra Botta, Alice Platt, Richard and Susan Galef. Around Taghkanic Lake.
- Larry asked if these walk are going to be the main activity of our CAC.

3. **Plastic Bag Ban** – Anna told the committee about the Plastic Bag Ban ordinance passed in Great Barrington. It was agreed that it should be handled on the county level by the EMC. A copy of the ordinance should be requested.
4. **Trees for Tribs** – Tony reported that there will be a clean-up around the new trees on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00.
5. **Old Business** – Taghkanic Culvert Study. The study/inventory has not been completed but is still underway. CAC should try to schedule a presentation by Andrew Meyer for the Fall 2016.
6. **CAC Summer 2016 Meeting Schedule:**
  - NO JUNE MEETING
  - Meet on Thursday July 21 at 5PM
  - NO AUGUST MEETING
  - Meet on Thursday September 15 at 5PM.