

CAC Report by Anna Kadish

The meeting was held at the Kadish house and began at 5:00 PM. Members present were Anna Kadish, Moisha Blechman, Valerie Hoffmann, Joyce Thompson and Larry Kadish.

First Anna and Larry reviewed information about Road Salt which was presented at the Carey Institute in Milbrook on Feb 13th. A summary of this meeting was presented and a summary sent to Joyce and Cheryl by email and is attached below.

Megan Lung of the DEC has been in touch with Anna and told her that the DE has completed its study of Taghkanic culverts. She has also told us about grants which might provide funding for Taghkanic.

We then discussed possibilities that we may apply to become a Climate Smart Community. Of course, to do this we must have the willingness by the Town Board. It was suggested that the Town Board may set up a presentation about this by Robin Reynolds, perhaps in April.

We suggested that we may plan CAC walks in spring, probably in the first 2 weeks of May and September, Possibly on the property of John Marcus or at a neighbor of Frost White. Anna Kadish will set up these walks.

Moisha then raised the subject of the trees in Taghkanic and how important they are to the environment. She suggested that this be discussed in future Taghkanic Zoning Commission meetings which will be on Feb 19 and March 5.

It was noted that since the earlier meetings, we have not heard from the County about the answers to the questions submitted about Doodletown and its future effects on Columbia County and its citizens.

A written report about the Carey Institutes Road Salt lectures is attached below and has been sent to Joyce and Cheryl

The meeting was ended at 6:15 PM

Carey Inst of Milbrook session about Road Salt on Mar 12 2018 Summary:

Both sand and salt have been used for clearing roads from snow. 98% of the salt in streams comes from human activity!!!

More than 100mg/L has environmental effects.

Levels of salt are highest every summer, mostly in August!! Surprising, but true.

Soil has high retention and late release. Private Wells may have high salt levels, Testing is good idea, and this is a serious issue, but not a hazard as yet. Unfortunately there are not many alternatives which are reliable. From roads, shallow ground water (SGW) is contaminated and stays for a long time. Goes from stream to envelope to bigger pools and summer rains flush it out, into rivers, then ocean. Applying salt unfortunately has high municipal costs.

Pre-wetting the roadways before applying salt results in less salt contaminating aquifers. Adding brine to the pavement below the precipitation can prevent icing.

In Adirondacks have been 7 million tons (!!!!) put down since 1989! Fifty percent into rivers and oceans. Other into soil and groundwater. Road density correlates with chloride density in area (that may make us better!!) Lake George has smart salting plans to regulate salt!! Most counties don't have plans!! **DOES Columbia County have any???** **There are not many alternate deicers that work well!**

Different snowplows have different effects, live edge plows and others. Some damage roads, others don't. Other towns use salt brine. But this may not be effective at low temperatures and may need to be made by the town and would add expense. Abrasives may be better than salt??? Parking lots are often coated with very high salt levels. Adding magnesium chloride may work better at very low temperatures,

The Sawkill watershed community has an effective salt removing protocol. Need to reduce salt as much as possible!! Putnam County has done so? Need to reduce salt around water sources. Smith Labs in Hyde Park is a good place to buy or learn about using salt,

ROAD SALT MASCULINIZES FROGS AND SALAMANDERS!!! And may affect microbial ecology in roadside ponds!!