

**Tony LaSalvia**

Sun, Mar 5, 11:07 AM (22  
hours ago)

Hello Cheryl,

I am attaching the minutes of the meeting held on Feb 23. This was a combined meeting of the CAC and CSC Task Force. We are going to be doing that in the future as well.

Doug Craig has taken the chair position on the CSC Task Force and has been running the meetings. The report is actually from him.

Thanks,

Tony

February 23, 2023

Town of Taghkanic

### Minutes of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force

**Present** were Doug Craig, Tim Kennelty, Larry Kadish, Peter Paden, Charlene Paden, Tony LaSalvia, Stephen Kling, Kevin Pastor, Bob Brush, Perry Ascher, Auggie Queros, Scott Marinoff, Betsy Albert, Joyce Thompson, Joan Feinberg, and David Koehler.

The upcoming program activities in the Pollinator / Home Grown National Parks series were reviewed.

1. Gardening With Deer: A presentation is scheduled for Mar 18 at the Firehouse. Billy informed us the kitchen area could be used to provide a 'kids corner' for activities to entertain children of parents who attend the presentation. These activities will be overseen by Joanne Klein. The presentation will be on Zoom and a recording will be posted or provided for anyone who wants to view it later. Stephen Kling was notified that we can move forward with the final, high resolution poster for this presentation.
  - a. There was discussion about the desire to emphasize that several of the presentations belong under the umbrella of the Home Grown National Parks / Pollinator themes. **Bob Brush** will draft an article that communicates this point. Peter reminded us that we hope to coordinate with other towns on some of these activities and that we should take care to not seem to exclude their involvement / contributions in any article we publish.
  - b. In addition, the notion of identifying these presentations as being part of a larger theme, e.g., "Taghkanic Talks" or "Taghkanic Talks and Donuts", was raised and received with uniform enthusiasm. The "Taghkanic Talks" would be a general educational series dealing with matters related to climate change and

environmental sustainability. To be further discussed and incorporated into next Website / Tgazette postings.

2. May 20<sup>th</sup> Garden Planting at Town Hall:
  - a. 9:30am short talk (30 min) at Firehouse followed by planting at Town Hall. Targeting May 12<sup>th</sup> for dirt delivery (donated by Almstead, we will pay for delivery) volunteers needed weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> to rake out dirt and move wood chips (provided by Moribito). Clara Cordato 4H Group will build and deliver raised beds (flowers and veggies) for front of Town Hall. Remember to take photos of event. Already on Firehouse calendar. Will have 30 oak saplings and extra plants for residents.
3. Garden Tour – This is not a tour to see lovely, finished gardens, but rather to view native pollinator garden in progress, to see how people are getting along with their efforts to incorporate the HGNP philosophy into their properties. David Newman, Tim Kennelty, and Avalon Bungee have agreed to participate (show their gardens).
4. Notification of all these activities will be through the Website, Tgaz, IMBY (Doug and Bets) and the Columbia and Star Register (Peter). And Stephens posters.
5. Beavers – *the CSC Task Force members unanimously agreed that the Town Board should be presented with the proposal of the Beaver Institute representatives to (1) give a presentation about the value of beaver populations and methods of mitigating beaver-related situations (flooding, etc) and (2) make inspection of 2-3 sites where recurring, costly mitigation activities are required by the highway department.* While we have not seen exact figures on how much time / money is spent by the HD annually on beaver mitigation, Joyce indicates it is a significant sum and that the town would stand to see a savings if these sites were good candidates for the Beaver Institute approaches. **Betsy** will present this to the Board. We will need to get land owner permission for site visits.
6. Solar Panels for the Highway Department: Doug raised the idea of installing solar panels at the highway department, either on the rooftop or on a framework on the grounds. **Doug** will run this by Rob and then get one or more developers to visit the site and give us a recommendation / quote. Once we know these answers, we'll figure out where to get the funding.
7. *The CSC Task Force also agreed that the proposal by John Buono to upgrade the lighting at the Town Hall and at the Highway Department be presented to the Town Board for approval asap. **Betsy** will present this to the Board.*
8. The committee considered a number of potential projects in an exercise to identify a CSC Plan for 2023:
  - a. Taghkanic Headwaters – (Peter) Peter has been in discussions with folks from neighboring towns who were involved in the previous Taghkanic Headwaters project. That dealt with the portion of the Tag Creek upstream of the pipe

feeding the Hudson Reservoir. The idea now is to complete the analysis of the creek downstream of that site. **Peter and Tony** will flesh this out further for our next meeting, so that it becomes a SMART goal. (see next)

- b. Doug brought up the idea of SMART goals and that we ought to try to be mindful of this concept in developing and communicating our ideas and projects for this Task Force. The acronym SMART stands for Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely. It is a guide to making sure that plans we come up with are well defined, that there is a way of measuring whether we have or have not succeeded, that they are within our means and resources, that they are aligned with the goals of the Climate Smart Committee, and that they cannot go on indefinitely, but have a specified time when we expect them to be completed. We can't 'do climate change mitigation', but we can do a heat pump project where we hope to get 10 households in Taghkanic to switch to heat pumps.
- c. Natural Resources Inventory for Taghkanic specifically – There is a general agreement that we want to do this, but it's not clear what it is we would do. **Charlene** will look into how other towns have done their own NRI and where the grant money came from and who did the field work, etc.
- d. Doug mentioned that there are incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act that will pay entirely for the installation of Heat Pumps for low-to-moderate income (LMI) families making less than 20% of the AMI in that area. **Doug** will check on this to make sure it is correct. **Charlene and Joan** will look into how to identify / communicate with LMI families. We would like to know how to reach out to these individuals in a non-compromising / ethical manner.
- e. Resiliency Plan – (Larry) – this is another thing we're sure we want to do, but aren't quite sure what it entails. **Larry** will flesh this out further.

Also discussed a community calendar – how to hear about all local events in this realm.