

## March Agenda Item #1 CSC

Inbox

2023 TOWN BOARD

Hi Cheryl-

The Climate Smart Committee would like to present this as an agenda item at March's Board Meeting. We have investigated upgrading the lighting system at Town Hall and the Garage with LED lighting fixtures. The attached quotes were compiled for us by James Buono from Potentia in partnership with National Grid and NYSEERDA.

According to the numbers as crunched by Buono, monthly savings at the Garage would be in the neighborhood of \$52, and \$46 at Town Hall. Please see attached proposals, which include Nat Grids 0% financing. If we would like to proceed, the utilities must approve both projects (usually approved in about 15 days) and Potentia would start about 15 days after utility approval.

Please note the garage project would require a lift to access the ceiling which the Town would provide. I've attached a couple of quotes from Home Depot.

## Agenda Item #2 from CSC

Inbox

Cheryl -

Here is the other agenda item for the march meeting.

The CSC is aware that Taghkanic has a number of areas with beaver populations. Often their activity causes road flooding and dammed culverts, which the Hwy Dept routinely clears out, and has for many years. This repetitive work is expensive and rarely effective for any length of time. Rob estimates the Hwy crew spends 9 hours a month with the backhoe tackling beaver blockages.

The CSC has learned that areas that beavers inhabit are often greatly enhanced by their presence. Beaver dams help purify water, trap sediment, slow water flow, enhance trout, insect, bird and other wildlife habitats, and increase ground water storage. The reverberations of tearing out their dams and clearing blockages are negatively felt by many.

There is a network of groups who specialize in helping municipalities explore and implement alternative solutions which can solve these Highway Dept. issues and preserve the beaver communities as well.

We have been exploring these alternatives with Mike Callahan from Beaver Solutions and Dan Aitchinson from Beaver Strategies. Beaver Solutions has worked with The Columbia Land Conservancy at several of their sites and recommend them. With help from our Hwy Super Rob Burns, we have identified four sites that most often need attention from the Hwy Dept. These include the intersection of Klein and New Forge Roads, Sopok Road, Crow Hill Road and Maiers Road. Dan Aitchinson has reviewed photos we provided him of these areas and he believes some might lend themselves well to their intervention strategies. This can involve installing devices to control water levels to prevent road flooding and/or culvert protection devices to prevent clogging.

Dan would be able to make a site visit in the Spring once the ice has released to further evaluate the areas in question. The cost of this one day visit is \$500. After the site visit, the folks from Beaver Solutions and Beaver Strategies work in concert to determine what type of device would best solve the problem, and give us a quote on installation of same. This work would be done with approval from the DEC and the landowners affected.

We would like the Board to authorize the Town to spend \$500 for a site visit.

Thank you,  
CSC