

Sep 28, 2023
Town of Taghkanic
Minutes of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Present were Doug Craig, Betsy Albert, Tim Kennelty, Bob Brush, Larry Kadish, Perry Ascher, Jean Feinberg, Peter Paden, Charlene, Paden, Celine Kagen, and special guests Katy Flammia (Claverack) and Barbara Hughey (Germantown) .

1. The August meeting minutes were approved.
2. We welcomed Katy Flammia, from the Claverack CSC. She wanted to see how we conducted our meetings. It seems the Claverack CSC is stuck on revisiting their Climate Action Plan each time they meet, without making further progress. We all contributed input about what has enabled us to make progress.
3. Barbara Hughey, from Germantown, share her experience with enlisting the help of the Highway crew in identifying and managing invasive plant species along the roadside. Among the ideas she shared were:
 - In approaching the highway personnel, be sure to recognize (honor) the work they already do in maintain the roads and the vegetation along the roads, etc.
 - Timing of cuttings is critical and species dependent; e.g., you have to cut vegetation when the seeds won't germinate, and cutting at the wrong time will just propagate the plant.
 - Germantown is picking specific sites to concentrate on with the highway dept.
 - With grant money, you can hire a crew to attach specific problem areas
 - **We think now is not the time to approach the highway crew about this, as they work to catch up on needed maintenance of Taghkanic roads, but this will be something for later.**
4. Larry gave an update on the Sep 26 Climate Adaptation and Resiliency workshop at Columbia Green Community College (attended by Larry, Anna, Doug, Bets, Peter, Bob). The workshop was aimed at identifying specific climate-related threats in each town. A follow up workshop is scheduled for Oct 27.
5. Bob & Betsy provided an update of the Sep EMC meeting. The EMC passed a resolution in support of Reforestation Day 2024. Bets indicated the meeting is a source for a wide variety of interesting info, including reports on the incidents of type of various communicable diseases, including but not limited to Covid. Bob will continue to serve on the EMC.
6. Betsy Updates:
 - Dan Aitchison recommends that we start the process of obtaining any required permits related to the various beaver dam sites that were evaluated earlier this year

and which are potential intervention sites. The process can take awhile, so we should get them in place. We may schedule a talk by him in early 2024.

- It was agreed that we should not lose focus on the Home Grown National Parks project, and that we should do some things to further promote it, publicize it, maybe actually join it as a town, put up signs, etc. Will think about it and discuss ideas next time.
 - Tim and Bets will weed the garden.
 - Electrical upgrades at TH and Garage have been completed. We were not pleased with our experience working with Potentia, and would not elect to work with them again. When we get the final invoices documenting the completion of work, then we can apply for points / grants.
7. The Repair Café will take place on Sat, Sep 30th at RoeJan Library. Ray and Deb Colgrove and Andrew Soltano will be the 'fixers' representing Taghkanic. We need to be sure to acknowledge their contribution.
 8. Window Insulation project will be postponed.
 9. Tim and Doug discussed the preparation, with Dave Newman, of a steering committee to plan Reforestation Day 2024, with the aim of planting 1000 native trees on public and private land on Arbor Day weekend of next spring. This will involve a number of Taghkanic Talks relating to the subject as the time approaches.
 10. Tim proposed a number of in-person and video presentations that can serve as Taghkanic Talks over the next several months. How frequently do we want to have these talks: monthly, every other month, whenever?
 11. Charlene conveyed that there will be a Taghkanic Talk on Oct 28 at the firehouse on affordable housing efforts in Columbia County to be presented by Habitat for Humanity and the Columbia County Housing Task Force.