

CSC Report for Oct 24, 2024

Climate Smart Communities / Conservation Advisory Committee

UPDATES

1. Betsy updated the committee on the status of the Beaver Project. Dan is attending a nationwide Beaver conference in Colorado now. We are currently going through the process of getting permits for the installation of two beaver deceivers. The installation of any units will not happen this year, but in 2025.
2. Betsy reminded the committee that the cookie collaboration with TSN is scheduled for 12/15/24. The event will be about decorating cookies that have already been prepared by Bets and others. There will also be cookie eating.
3. The conversation turned to our strategy for going forward, with the goal of continuing to promote awareness of environmental restoration through efforts like the Homegrown National Parks, planting native species and pollinator gardens.
 - a) Tim told us of a person he met, Joel Dubois, from the Green County Soil and Water Conservation Department. He is the buyer of trees distributed by the organization, and he knows his stuff. He offered to let us (Tim) help to put together a list of species we would like to have to offer in Taghkanic, with the idea that we could publicize a tree (bare-root seedlings/saplings) give-away to Taghkanic residents in April or May at one of our Taghkanic Talks. Joel would probably be willing to give a talk himself.
 - b) We talked about putting some focus on 'getting to know your property' or 'getting to know your forest', and even broader – so that people could increase their awareness of all the different bits of nature on their own properties – from vernal pools, ponds, streams, tree species, invasives and the aquatic, amphibious, insect, bird, and mammalian species that depend on these various environmental components.
 - c) *(Author's note ☺ This discussion coincides with the COP-16 Convention of Biological Diversity currently underway in Cali, Columbia. (see <https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/what-is-cop16>)*
 - d) The committee decided to plan a series of 6 presentations (every other month) over the next year that will highlight some aspect of knowing your land. Tim and Peter will come up with a proposed series talks and we'll discuss it at the next CSC meeting.
4. The committee decided to explore what exactly would be involved in doing a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for Taghkanic. Peter indicated that Gallatin is currently doing an NRI with the help of an outside organization to do the field work and report writing. We have decided to try to reach out to Eli (from Gallatin) and ask him to join us in

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person or via Zoom (maybe at our next meeting) so we can learn from him about the process, costs, etc. Peter will contact Eli about this.