

March 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, Bob Brush, Perry Ascher, Betsy Albert, Joyce Thompson, Celine Kagan, and Jean Feinberg.

Taghkanic Talks:

- There was a discussion of how to proceed with the publication announcing Taghkanic Talks. It was decided that a team of Bob, Celine, and Peter would finalize the document and get it published in the appropriate publications.
  - Peter will contact the Columbia paper
  - Betsy will contact the Register Star
  - Perry will reach out to Rural Intelligence
- A review of the Gardening with Deer presentation of March 18<sup>th</sup> indicated it was well received by some 55-65 attendees (in person & Zoom). The Kids Corner addition was a big success thanks to Joanne Klein, but with the low kid-turnout this feature will probably not be included in future programs. There was a brief discussion of following up with the AVID (Assessing Vegetation Impact of Deer) program, as well as deer ex-closures to allow re-growth of forested areas. Celine expressed reservations, based on her experience with fences and the unintended ensnarement of small animals, as well as the need for constant maintenance. Need to follow up with Tracy Testo-Smith.
- The team discussed whether there would be a benefit to assigning specific numeric goals to any of the HGNP-related events (e.g., X number of residents agreeing to shift 100 sq ft of lawn to a native garden). There was little enthusiasm for this idea at this time. Instead, the educational objective itself is the goal.

Good Plant / Bad Plant

- It was agreed that Tim, Betsy, and Doug get their act together and make a section in the Tgazette for an ongoing series of articles by Tim that would highlight one good native plant and one undesirable invasive plant. The section is named Good Plant / Bad Plant. (done)

Charlene indicated that she identified a number of programs that offer state assistance / subsidies for various home energy upgrades to households meeting certain income requirements. The committee is working on how to make this information available in the most efficient and cost-effective manner to residents who may meet the eligibility requirements. Based on the success of the Broadband committee's success with their postcard mailer, we are considering going this route.

The team discussed the difficulties and advantages of pursuing a local Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for Taghkanic. We concluded that it would not be something that we would initiate in 2023, but that we would continue to explore in more detail what it would involve in number of people and costs with an eye toward taking it on next year, or alternatively moving directly to the creation of an open-space plan. Maybe do this jointly with another town. Since developing a local NRI will require the help of an outside consultant, we'll need to both figure out about how much that would cost and look into sources of funding / grants to help with the expense. (Peter)

Larry indicated the DEC is developing the guidelines for a Resiliency Program, and that Taghkanic is slated to be involved in evaluating the program. So, although it is not currently clear what exactly is involved, we will pursue this Resiliency Program as it is rolled out.