

Conservation Advisory Committee meeting minutes

March 1, 2023

Discussions:

Minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved.

The subject of the West Hurley water situation was first for discussion. So far there has been no movement. Hinchey has proposed legislation and it has gotten some movement. Sharista is working with Hinchey to push legislation since there are other situations like Hurley throughout the state. Our questions were how could we force an audit of the company to see if they have fulfilled their obligations outlined by the health department when the HVWC was awarded their last rate increase. W Hurley citizens will attend the next scheduled meeting of the PSC to object to the current request for a 22% rate increase until improvements are made. The CAC questioned what Metzger and the County is doing to assist us? Why did her representative not attend the citizen's group when invited? Can we, as a CAC write letters to the PSC in support of getting the system fixed? Is there money in the infrastructure plan to remedy this situation? Should we write to each PSC Trustee?

NRI and navigating a grant is rather difficult. The Greenway has a new system. You must sign up in a portal in order to see what grants are available. I have signed up and will give the committee the password at the next meeting. Joan will also call other towns to see when they are updating their NRI's and try to get a feel for costs. Joan spoke with Melinda and she said she would consider having the Town consultants assist with the process. Erin would also speak with Carli to get a handle on consultants.

Climate Smart should be finalized next FRiday. Goals for the year was to work on benchmarking and tracking the Town's use of energy. That enables us to get points toward a clean energy community. Other areas were code enforcement training, getting heat pumps for the Town Hall, document emissions and how the Town can reduce emissions.

Kitchen waste composting - The Town is looking into the composting. More to come at the next meeting. We thought of a campaign to educate the public. We could make up signs and pamphlets to assist the recycling center because it was noted that there is often incorrect placement of the materials in the roll-offs. This might make it easier for both the workers and those who use the facility.

668 Bluestone acres. There have been offers by the State that have been declined.

Brittany Drive is having flooding problems and brought it to the Town Board.

EMC - There is a tree planting project which the Town can apply for. A Forestry Protection and Maintenance plan was brought up and we had discussed it previously. We should consider this at the April meeting.

DEC is updating the Climate Action Plan and greenhouse gasses. They want to encourage businesses to become more aware of the emissions.

DEP is doing core testing on the Ashokan Dam. It is over 100 years old.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Paccione