

## CAC Agenda / Working Doc / Minutes Feb. 9 2022

Upcoming Events

Annual Planning

Calendaring for 2022

EMC CAC annual report

General

Planning Board

Land & Water

Climate Smart Community/ Energy

Transportation

Materials Management

## **CAC Agenda / Working Doc / Minutes Feb. 9 2022**

### **Upcoming Events**

- Webinars (links at end) about rare species designations, amphibian migrations, and vernal pool conservation. And birds in backyards

Open Mtg, Vote on minutes

- In attendance:
  - CAC: Steve (leading meeting), Lori, Denis, Jen, Frances, Michael
  - Liaison: Jacob
  - Guest: Rob Greig
- Minutes approved.

Guest Introduction; Rob Greig from Greig Farm

- Towards positive environmental impact on Greig Farm.

### **Annual Planning**

### **Calendaring for 2022**

- Clean Up Day – Robert to decide? With apple blossom?
- Repair Café Earth Day weekend April 23?
- Paper Shred Day (May 7 Apple Blossom day, location TBD w/ event committee/Rotary(?))
- E-Waste Day
- Compost Program Pilot Run time
  - Update from Lori: approach this as a pilot program May 1-Oct 31. Launch on Apple Blossom Day?
  - Outreach plan is drafted, Frances starting on flyers
  - Marketing = additional service at Recycle Yard
  - Still pending final approval, Laurie & Lori meeting w/ Robert next week - prices have increased since initial discussion
  - Bins already procured for household compost.
  - Amelia : incorporating education into program
  - Jen adds: if food waste is 30% of solid waste, diverting compost will reduce tipping fee with Welsh (if correct that town is subsidizing garbage) → may balance out.
- Can we do a haz waste day (Frances to review the grant – maybe put off a year)
- Coolest Refrigerant Collection and Gas Removal (May 7 also??)

## **EMC CAC annual report**

shared [google doc](#) brainstorm! (Steve has editing privileges I hope, other can comment)

- Last year: Ruth Oja scholarship, bike pedestrian counts, Hardscrabble, DEC amphibian migration, LED lights (nearly finished), Audubon certification program support (in progress), water sampling with SKWC, Earth Day Cleanup
- + Compost program, Refrigerant recovery, level 3 charger, highway garage solar, DEC camp scholarship
- Moving ahead: Earth Day, Repair Cafe, refrigerants, RHCS D Climate planning, electric mowing grant (if awarded), Compost, e-waste, Haz waste

## **General**

### **DEC Camp Scholarship(s)**

Ages 11-17 (11 by December 1, 2022).

- Share info w/ networks (weblink, FB post, direct contacts with LAMS faculty, kidmail)
- Masons are meeting tonight, still waiting on response.
- Camp sign-ups start in March. We will review applications probably before next CAC meeting.
- Update application questions

- RHCS D ballot proposals. - Proposition vote upcoming Feb 22, 2022
  - Prop 1 = building infrastructure/energy-related items upgrade. No explanation of overarching (climate, GHG, energy use) goals. ~\$7 million for AC/heating upgrades.
    - Steve: One obstacle is that the school district can't spend the money to look at alternatives until the proposition passes.
      - NYSERDA could provide this funding, but wouldn't be in time for this year.
    - Jen: company (TetraTech) has claimed heat pumps don't work in cold climates – need an expert in HP technology involved. Also restrictions on wording limit what can be proposed.
    - Adding up contingency costs adds an additional ~50% to cost projections.
    - Lori: status of solar on school roofs? Reported construction will begin this summer.
  - Denis sent a draft letter from Energy Cte. to School Board and administration, mayor, town supervisor, will send a copy to CAC members.
    - Offering help/support, funding available from NYSERDA including to cover feasibility study to move away from fossil fuels.
    - Does not make sense to just replace units and continue to use oil.
  - Frances reviewing alternate rubber mulch materials.

## Planning Board

- changes to code needed this year – discuss/ rank?
  - Energy Cte: Battery Energy Storage, Solar Updates/Agrivoltaics(?), Stretch Energy Code. how do we help rank and share w/ other committees when there is overlap - Julia/ Jacob question?
    - Net metering question (Energy Cte question)
- Some grant money for forest purchasing/easements (too late for this year/ plan for next round??). Shared w/ Trail Cte and Julia, I think shared with Robert: Community Forest Conservation Grant - due March 30. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is pleased to announce available NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) funding for municipalities to acquire private land and establish community forests through use of fee title or conservation easements on areas of 10 acres or more. *The goal of this grant program is to fund municipal land acquisition for community forests, which are vital for wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, recreational opportunities, mental health, air quality, water quality, and to meet the obligations outlined in New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Community forests are meant to build local ownership of forests, participation in forestland management, and encourage local residents to enjoy local forests and increase connection to forest benefits. All properties acquired through this grant program are required to allow 100% public access. Any restrictions, such as topography (water courses, mud flats, cliffs etc.) must align with the goals of this grant program and be approved by DEC.*

## Land & Water

**Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)** – progress being made – dialogue b/n VRH, TRH, Bard (missing Tivoli). Of note for our guest: they shared some maps with opportunities for improving water quality - two examples of farms. One with a break in their forest buffer to the riparian zone, and one with no buffer/ crops in the flood plain.

- Julia's role?

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan

LWRP committee is looking at possible projects in the Waterfront Revitalization Area (Rte 9G to the middle of the river through summer

- Trails, wildlife viewing platforms

## Climate Smart Community/ Energy

**Cornell Climate Smart Steward project** - figuring out how to do refrigerant drives with NY4Cool refrigerant management. Denis to do a practice session with Bard funded equipment and a trainee? Laurie reached out to BOCES to gauge interest, no response from course instructor yet

Budget Item: Can we buy GIS software for solar?

- Frances – does Bard give us enough access or is that beyond our contract
- Who can reach out to Cornell Cooperative Extension about licensing discount or resource for municipalities?
- Revisiting our climate action plan?

**Community Choice Aggregation:** originally 18 month contract, now Jen (+ others?) suddenly dropped. Has the town not renewed the CCA? Public Hearing May 6, 2021. + billing problems with Central Hudson.

## Transportation

Not sure if we can help Robert with the e-van grant

## Materials Management

**Repair Cafe** Earth Day?

## Compost pilot

Upcoming Zooms w/ Columbia Land Conservancy:

March 2 Joyce Tomaselli: Controlling Invasive Plants in Managed Landscapes and Beyond

April 6\* Margaret Roach, Nonstop Plants: A Garden for 365 Days