

CAC Meeting

October 14, 2020

706. motion to open Steve, seconded by Leah

Motion made by Julia and seconded by Leah to approve minutes. All present in favor of approval

Mike was not at meeting but discussed an email sent by him earlier on items at planning board meeting

Lori – did pedestrian count in center of town and submitted findings. ~400 people in 4 hours!

Laurie – received pedestrian count data collected by others in other areas that she needs to submit

Laurie, shared Bike tourism document (draft). Bike tours and bike shops. Bike tour #2 goes through Red Hook. Laurie is going to ride the tour to make sure it's correct. Rhinebeck bike shoppe on rt 9 is not listed in the doc - maybe they are listing only those shops that rent bikes. Ride are rather long...suggest make shorter loops within longer rides.

Lands and water – Steve updated group on Saw Kill Watershed Community. Going through planning project. \$10,000 for 3 yrs. In 2021 will start to do things/meetings online. Initiative to expand water testing to wells located in strategic areas. Mapping of nearby watershed (e.g., Stonykill) so have info on those too. Preparing 'report card' for Saw Kill. Working on new website. Developing workshops. Julia may write a newsletter article on buffers. Nothing firm in calendar. Would like to follow up workshop with in-person action (e.g., buffer planting?). Julia said a lot to land trust people are working on best practice for community planting/stewardship events.

Laurie shared map of Winnakee Land Trust land acquisition (purchased with State funding). Working on adding trails but at a minimum, protects Saw Kill. Discussed walking the property. Connects to the new Rec Park west property.

Denis got an award with Town of Red Hook, Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli and SunCommon for the solar project. (Three cheers for Denis!!) Laurie will try to get press release for website.

Helipad discussion – property has been used for helicopter landings without permit. Steve, property is too small, set back is not large enough, in a busy area (traffic & resident), and noise will be an issue (both for people in immediate area, for those passing by on roadways and for those in the flight path). Applicant said it was like a tractor, Steve found data that showed that it seemed to be quite loud. Day time and night time flights. Contrary to applicant claim, little to no public benefit. It seems like a dangerous helicopter to fly. A lot of accidents. Highest rate of accident of any helicopter. Design flaws in this helicopter.

Denis, set back and size of property was to preserve and protect area from noise. Public safety and added risk to those in the area. It's not allowed <period>. If ZBA gives variance it opens the field to all types of variances. Do we know if the boards are leaning in a direction?

Sue, there are people leaving the board. Does this complicate approval process?

Julia – thinks we should keep comments narrowly focused to environment. That said, she thinks we should come to the defense of land use planning and town rules. Community character.

Laurie – try to unearth minutes from last helipad application. Maybe we have useful info.

Steve – airport on other side of bridge has a helipad. He should land there. Established use.

Timeline for next meeting on helipad is unknown...maybe 11/2. Steve thought the next step was a public hearing. Mike's notes indicated that the applicant also needs to do a sound study and determination if has to do full EIS.

Laurie will draft letter on behalf of the CAC and then CAC members will review.

Motion to end. Leah motion. All voted in favor of ending meeting