

CAC Minutes June 8 2022

- Minutes:
- Members present: Lori Urbin, Steve Appenzeller, Denis Collet, Mike Zelig (acting chair)
- **Meeting convened at 7:06 PM.**
- Lori gave an update on the food waste composting program, which has been had an enthusiastic response from participants. The initial "Hardscrabble Scrapper" email went out to approximately 50 people. As part of a contractual agreement, the Ozone will be tracking the amount of material composted each month.
- Steve reported on the Repair Cafe; and attendance was light, as expected, at the first post-pandemic event. He would like to discuss and schedule a Repair Cafe after the summer is over, to find a suitable date that would maximize response and volunteers.
- Denis provided information on bio-digesters, including a trend toward smaller scale digesters located at farms. Amelia LeGare of Ozone is exploring the possibilities of acquiring a biodigester.
- Mike informed the group that he had responded to the NRI survey from Cornell Cooperative Extension, on behalf of the CAC. Cornell is working with Dutchess County to update the county Natural Resource Inventory from 2010. This project will provide useful information for municipal groups like ours, since the mapping technology has become increasingly sophisticated. So, it seems wise to hold off on our NRI update until this data is available.
- Denis initiated discussion of the Red Hook Central School capital project that involves replacement of HVAC equipment. He expressed disappointment that the school board and architect on the project have shown little interest in moving away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy sources. Mike commented that it's hard to believe they are not influenced by the current exorbitant oil prices. Lori said it may be necessary to confront some of these people in meetings to influence a sustainable plan. Steve pointed out that NYS Education has to approve capital projects, and that could be a point of leverage in the matter.
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- **There will be no July meeting; meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.**

Agenda for Meeting/ working doc:

General

Stellah had asked for an events calendar. Library / events cte mentioned some sort of community calendar exists - can anyone follow up with Amy from Village?

RHCSD projects

Laurie has not heard back from Scott R about any paperwork connected to an energy audit he said the school did.

RHCSD solar project and curricular discussion

Materials Management

- Repair Cafe (Community Ctr) (Steve ***)
- E-waste Day (Recycle Ctr) (Laurie***)
- Compost Project (Lori***)
 - keep our group updated on how the compost pilot is coming.
 - do some research to see if there is any NYS funding available to support the program on an ongoing basis.
- Clean Up Day (Town hall meet up) (Jacob***)
- Paper Shred Day (Town Hall lot) (Jen***)
- Coolest Refrigerant Collection and Gas Removal (Recycle Ctr) (Denis***)
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***Create a [summary](#) for each event/ program and link in these notes

- Why did we host it?
- How did we do it? Include key statistics

Planning Board

Solar Mapping training - Did Sam Phelan from PB attend (he was reviewing)?

Land & Water

Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

- Monthly meeting - powerpoint available, SKWC, RH town in zoom attendance.
- they'll make us maps/ ID grant opportunities.
 - E.g. Maps of where we could protect within 100 feet of waterways.


Water / SKWC

Pollinator possibilities

- Bard was awarded a pollinator friendly meadow design for the corn field on 9G. From Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley
- Town site was disrupted by septic construction, Who can advise about a native pollinator planting since the space is torn up.

Climate Smart Community/ Energy

• **Public Comment Period Extended to July 1, 2022**

On December 20, 2021, the Climate Action Council voted to release the [draft scoping plan](#) for public comment. January 1, 2022 marked the beginning of a 120-day [public comment period](#). The public comment period has been extended through July 1, 2022.

PLEASE make comments - how many have already made comments? Make more! Use Frances' template if you need help. Share it with two people.

Thanks to Jen Metzger for many suggestions on areas to comment. [Template here](#) - you can choose a sector, copy bullet points you like, add your own thoughts, and submit them [here](#) (<https://nyscrda.seamlessdocs.com/f/DraftScopingComments>)

- Cornell Climate Smart Steward project/ CEC award: no word on [electric mower grant](#) for summer 2022. We can hopefully implement it for Summer 2023.
- Refrigerant drive w/ Energy Cte
- Revisiting our climate action plan - keep eyes on grants?
- Town Board passed a resolution in support of CLCPA (Laurie requested a copy/ notification from Town Clerk)

Transportation

- Seeking members for a Complete Streets Committee

Website/ Communications

Frances updated the Recycling Center [FAQs page](#)

- remove the permit fee and
- add a mention of the compost program
- Pls review along with the [CAC page](#) more generally, in case there are updates needed!
- Something I want to work on this summer is becoming aware of what other boards and committees are working on and what else is going on in town that needs an environmental/climate lens.
- Ongoing edu: I'm starting an internship in late June with Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley on a climate action network around the region and am excited both about what that might bring to Red Hook (What are we looking for models for?) and also what we can share with other communities beyond what we already do as that network develops (What are some of our biggest successes on climate?).
- Outreach: Should we think about CAC social media beyond facebook? Tied with the Energy Committee? Expand our reach to include new people, build wider awareness of the topics and specific projects we work on, and add to outreach components of grants if successful? (I'm thinking Instagram because pictures and visuals are fun and engaging, and it reaches a young crowd that Facebook largely doesn't anymore).