

MINUTES
CHESTER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CCAC)
September 26, 2024 – 6:00 PM 3 Romers Alley, Sugar Loaf, NY

Attendance

In-person: Martine DiPasquale, Jane Dysinger, EJ Szulwach, Susannah Devine, Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn, Tracy Schuh, Langdon Morris, Clifton Patrick, and Leslie Smith

Missing: Justin George, Bill Greene

Welcome

Martine DiPasquale, CCAC Chairperson, opened the meeting at 6:06 PM with an Attendance/Roll Call and the Pledge.

Approval of Minutes, August 22, 2024

6 in favor/0 opposed – MOTION CARRIES

Old Business Update and Committee Reports

- A. **Repair Cafe:** Jane and Susannah shared the updates. We will be moving ahead with the Repair Café as we have seven experienced and five new coaches covering sewing, electronics, lamp repair, jewelry, gluing, knife sharpening, and bike repair. We can officially use the Repair Café logo in our advertising. Flyers will be distributed and 10 yard signs created to advertise the event on November 2, 2024 from 10:00 – 1:00 at the Chester Senior Center. Additionally, there will be a refreshment table and information table. EJ, Tracy and Elizabeth will distribute milkweed seeds and share information about the CCAC recent and ongoing projects. Tracy will reach out to Town Councilman Robert Courtney for a sandwich board sign for the event (similar to our Coolest Recycling signage). The Repair Café committee requests a budget allocation for advertising and signage.

Recommendation: The CCAC requests a budget allocation of up to \$140.00 for reimbursement for advertising and signage for the Repair Café. From our Coolest Recycling Drive we have \$151.00 in an account with the town.

Motion: offered by EJ Szulwach and seconded by Susannah Devine
6 in favor/0 opposed- **MOTION CARRIES**

- B. **Purple Martin House Placement:** Elizabeth shared placement information from the Orange County Audubon Society. They recommend placing the Purple Martin house near the parking area in a flat area.

Recommendation: None

- C. **Town Hall Tree:** Upon discussion we will wait for further information from our arborist regarding the removal of the trees in front of Town Hall. Tree transplanting may not be efficient or effective (successful).

Recommendation: Tracy will speak with the arborist to determine the best course of action, balancing all factors to determine how to proceed with transplanting or removal of trees.

New Business

- A. **Black Meadow Road Water Station:** Martine shared a video of the flooding of Black Meadow Road facing the Water Station. The group discussed this long-standing issue with potential hazardous conditions for motorists as well as protection of the aquifer water supply and well head protection.

Recommendations: The CCAC recommends that the Town Board engage the Village of Chester and Board of Trustees to begin the process for developing an intermunicipal agreement to protect the Village Well and surrounding area aquifers on 224 Black Meadow Road.

Additionally, the CCAC recommends that the flooding in the area creates a hazardous situation for motorists and the affects the health and safety of the water supply. As part of Well Head protection plan including buffering of wetlands and streams, the surrounding area needs an expanded protection zone to protect developed infrastructure, unimproved land, and water supply.

These recommendations should also be shared and considered by the Comprehensive Plan Committee before their final version of the Public Draft.

Motion: offered by EJ Szulwach and seconded by Martine DiPasquale
5 in favor/0 opposed/1 abstention: **MOTION CARRIES**

- B. **Climate Action Hudson Valley's Ecological Restoration Grant:** The group discussed the grant and several members: Langdon, Jane, and Susannah will meet with the Town grant writer to consider how Knapps View could benefit. Jane also shared an Orange & Rockland initiative, with ecologists listed. The group will reach out to the O&C ecologists for recommendations.
Recommendation: The committee of Langdon Morris, Susannah Devine and Jane Dysinger will request a meeting with the Town grant writer.

- C. **CCAC LOGO:** Susannah shared the beautiful possibilities for the CCAC logo. The group chose a design as their official LOGO. Susannah will finalize the logo and make it available to the group to be included in our correspondence and advertising. The new Chester Climate Smart Community logo will be shared and determined via email.
Recommendation: LOGO (V5) was chosen by the group as the official CCAC logo. The CSC logo will be chosen by the group when shared by Susannah.

Motion: offered by Jane Dysinger and seconded by Susannah Devine
6 in favor/0 opposed: **MOTION CARRIES**

- D. **Other business:** EJ Szulwach again asked the council to consider submitting our budget requests to the Town Board by October 4th (or as soon as possible).
Recommendation: The CCAC requests a budget allocation for \$10,000 for the specific purpose of purchasing and planting trees, public education and outreach, promotion of public events, including signage and expense reimbursement.

Motion: offered by EJ Szulwach and seconded by Susannah Devine
6 in favor/0 opposed: **MOTION CARRIES**

- E. Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn will step down as secretary for the CCAC.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: offered by EJ Szulwach and seconded by Susannah Devine
6 in favor/0 opposed - **MOTION CARRIES**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 6 PM, 3 Romers Alley, Sugar Loaf, NY

