

present:

Barbara Bodenhorn

Hal Chorny

Alex Danon

Dave Haldeman (chair)

Michelle Marion

Patty Lee Parmalee (scribe)

Samuel Shackleton

Dave Tompkins

JoAnne Warren

Food waste composting:

The meeting began by watching a zoom presentation on food waste collection and composting by Angelina Brandt of Ulster County Resource Recovery

Discussion about the potential for implementing in Shawangunk:

Options for household food waste: households delivering it to dropoff centers, or composting it themselves in back yard, or pickup by current trash collection businesses (reaction to the last: "that'll be the day" - they depend on economies of scale).

The DEC announced a grant of about \$2 million in the Environmental Protection Fund to establish residential food drop-offs. It is the town's responsibility to clean the bins, monitor what gets put in (a one-person job on site?), and provide transportation of the bins to Kingston. The bins are 10-16' enclosed cargo trailers attachable to any ball hitch.

Benefits: reducing greenhouse gases (methane in landfills comes from the food waste there),  
production of compost which can be sold to the public (they charge \$30/ton which is 2 cubic yards) and/or given back to the providers of the waste.

What can't be included: paper, stickers, rubber bands, mesh bags, pet waste. (Bones, however, which are bad for backyard composting, can be handled by the high heat in the processing center)

Currently about 200 households use the Town resource recovery center; that many also doing the food waste process would make it worthwhile, economically and ecologically

Dave H. will ask about interest by the Town Board.

#### Car charging station:

Steve participated in a webinar on charging stations for electric cars, and he contacted a place that is eager to take on a turnkey operation.

We do need to figure out federal incentives to help paying for it.

Maybe at the old firehouse? Another site could be by the old police station.

Per plug cost would be ultimately decreased by digging a long trench for future additions.

A fast charge can provide 90 miles of driving in a 20-minute charge; new batteries might be able to do 250 miles in 10 minutes.

Our choice will be level 2 charging.

#### Open space plan:

Written in 2004, it now needs updating. With help from the Climate Smart group? (Incidentally, we get climate smart points for updating.)

Dave T: The old plan has much focus on agricultural recommendations, for buffers and wetlands. The biggest rewrite will have to be the water quality section.

Also many new conservation easements don't show on these 2004 maps.

Has the existing document actually been implemented?

#### St. Pat's Day tree distribution:

White pine and balsam work well, we should request them again. Dave H. will ask John for the funds to buy. Expect 750 trees to cost \$360.

To increase enthusiasm for planting and tending, we could sponsor some kind of photo contest.

#### Blue Chip development proposal:

Discussion on whether OSI might be able to buy the land proposed for massive development, and whether the Grasslands people have any interest. Dave will ask them.

#### Rail Trail:

Grading always a problem. Dave H. has gone through 3 volunteers, who ultimately backed out.

Dave wants to meet with Amanda Laval [sp?] to find out if we can get around the gap by the prison.

Maybe the high school would be interested in a work day project.

We are petitioning the Town Board to designate the stretch from the police station to Birch Road as an official part of the Rail Trail.

Miscellaneous:

1. Wildrick Road: the developer wants 3 sites, but we saw that it's tricky to avoid wet spots.
2. The new building inspector took a course on energy efficiency.
3. Can we get a charter change that would require EMC participation in environmental decisions - with a (non-voting) member on the Town Board?