

## MINUTES – OLIVE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL – MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2022

1. Introductions and roll call. Co-Chairs Simon Strauss and Dan White; members Chet Karwatowski, Matt Kovner and Ellie Reese. Also in attendance Beth Waterman from the newly organized Shandaken CAC. Welcome to Ellie as a newly appointed member of the Olive CAC.
2. Approval of April 20, 2022 minutes. Proposed by Dan White, seconded by Ellie Reese; approved by all.

### Policies and Projects:

#### External Town:

3. Collaboration with other towns (Rochester and Woodstock). Shandaken now added to the mix with Beth Waterman's attendance at today's meeting. Particular areas of interest to Shandaken include composting – the Phoenicia Diner's Mike Cioffi has organized a composting container there which is emptied at the UCRRA facility in Kingston.

Matt has been talking to John Messerschmitt from the Rochester ECC about participation in the "Third Thursdays" education/conservation virtual sessions, of which 3 are organized including the next on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Chet suggested talking with the Catskill Forest Association. Dan

4. Climate Smart Communities and Bronze certification ("CSC"). News on whether Olive will have reached our bronze certification is due in June. We agreed to have a separate meeting to consider how to move forward with and the priorities for CSC and Clean Energy Communities certifications and grant searches. Date TBA. Matt

#### Internal Town:

5. Open Space Inventory – Update on DEC Open Space Priority Area project. Olive has been awarded a grant from NYS DEC for what they define as a Critical Environment Area (CEA) or we are describing as an Open Space Priority Area. A separate subcommittee has been set up that meets fortnightly to move this CEA mapping project forward. Ingrid Haeckel from DEC and Gretchen Stevens from Hudsonia are the leads on this project.

We need ideas from everyone on potential areas within Olive for CEAs – also ask the ASWMP, Rondout Land Conservancy and Woodstock Land Conservancy for ideas.

Melissa Petersen of the Woodstock Land Conservancy has been working with Woodstock on their CEA – Ellie will ask Melissa to talk to our subcommittee.

There is another grant possibility due June 1 for funding of an OSI – given our commitment to the work we already have in train we decided to sit this one out.

There may be additional grant money (beyond that already secured) for culverts and bridges – the Highway Dept is on top of this.

Olive was not selected for the second grant applied for – the “Conservation Overlay Zoning Support” grant.

Dan and Chet

6. Meeting with the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP)

- Input from AWSMP (among others) could be useful for our CEA/OSPA grant work (see 5 above).
- Bushkill plan needs to be updated (by AWSMP) – was very beneficial.
- Riparian plantings – provide support for landowners beyond “Trees for Tribs” program – AWSMP can help with actual plantings e.g. as it has done along the Moonhaw and Bushkill streams.
- CRISP – Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership
- AWSMP can help in several ways – it has:
  - o Research focus ) how do OCAC make use?
  - o Project priorities )
  - o Grant Programs )
- Education – consider for example grant for funding for Educational Signage – e.g. bicycle trail around Olive – partnership with Ulster County for additional Ashokan Rail Trail signage.

Chet

7. Envision Boiceville – OCAC contribution to Envision Boiceville’s pre-proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Fund – seeking grant for next phase.

Ellie/Dan

8. Education – Update on the Home Energy Savings Workshop

June 14 at 530 pm at the Olive Free Library, led by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Matt

9. Beautification – Update on Pollinator Pathway

- Suggest map of all Town lands that could be pollinator patches. Woodstock ECC is doing that for Woodstock.

- Plot (Jo Ostrander's house at the corner of Mountain Road and Rt 28) to replace the American Legion Hall bed – possible date for June 5<sup>th</sup>. Ellie to coordinate volunteers – Dan to roto-till.

Ellie, Jac and Dan

10. Community Choice Aggregation update - no news

Simon

11. Other business

All