

Taghkanic Climate Smart Committee/Conservation Advisory Council - CSC/CAC

Minutes- Thursday, November 20, 2025

Present: Doug Craig, Tim Kennelty, Peter Paden, Betsy Albert, Charlene Paden;

Via Zoom: Tony LaSalvia, Perry Ascher, Larry Kadish

1. Reports /Business

- **County Climate Smart Task Force** (Betsy represents Taghkanic)) (Meets 1st Thursday)
Betsy reported that the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) has generated a Draft Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) report that records a 15% reduction in GHG in the capital district from 2010-2022.
- **County EMC** (Bob represents Taghkanic) (Meets 4th Mondays)
Bob reported discussions on the EMC about developing a county-wide newsletter that would describe projects, accomplishments and upcoming events of each town's CSCs/CACs. Cara Boyle (Copake) is apparently going to pursue the idea. We discussed whether there may be funding on the state or county level for this type of sharing. It was also noted that Claverack has created a tri-town newsletter for Claverack, Philmont and Taghkanic and that we have previously agreed that we would create some short content pieces for that. Bob and Betsy also noted that Don Meltz of the County Planning Department is assembling a report for the Supervisors on the 2025 activities of county CAC's and CSC's and would like each Town to submit a report to him. Peter agreed to draft something for Taghkanic, which he will share with the committee for input before sending it off.
- **Lantern Fly Alert** – Peter questioned whether we should circulate notices such as the CLC's recent Spotted Lantern Fly alert to the Taghkanic Talks email list. The group felt it is likely most of those people already receive such notices from other sources and that we need to be careful not to clutter in-boxes.
- **Taghkanic Talks** –
Nov 15th - (Comments)
We briefly reviewed the recent Taghkanic Talks event and came up with the following thoughts and suggestions:
 - It should be announced at the outset of the sessions when the Q&A will take place.
 - A lapel mike would work much better than a hand held mike. Doug has one that should work with the firehouse PA system.
 - Press & media announcements need to go out sooner
 - Committee questioned whether posters are actually useful in generating attendance.

January 17th and beyond - (Planning)

Betsy has made arrangements for a January talk on beavers to take place on January 17. We agreed to

- continue and create hard copy posters for the January talk, but to consider only doing electronic posters after that and focus on distributing information via electronic media.
- Use print and electronic media, and sooner. Encourage all ages.
- Coordinate with Gallatin, Copake and Claverack. Hillsdale?

The committee also agreed it would be helpful to have parking signage at the firehouse and that it would be important to create at least two ADA parking spots when configuring the parking area there for these events.

- **Town of Taghkanic Planning/Reorganization Meeting – January 12, 2026**

The committee agreed, in anticipation of the Town’s organizational meeting in January, that we should review the membership of the CAC and CSC, communicate with everyone who is listed as a member to ascertain their interest in continuing and be clear about the responsibilities and expectations of members. Charlene and Peter agreed to draft a note to all listed CAC and CSC committee members, and also to consider potential new members. It was noted that CAC members are appointed by the Town Board and limited to ten in number; the CSC is less formal.

2. **Taghkanic CSC/CAC Planning for 2026 – The Bigger Picture**

The committee discussed an agenda for the upcoming year. We identified at least three initiatives to pursue and agreed that smaller working groups would take responsibility to flesh out plans and details as follows:

- Taghkanic Talks Planning** – Tim agreed to take responsibility for this. Peter suggested a March program on vernal pools, and agreed to reach out to Colleen Lutz who previously expressed interest in presenting on this topic. If we can do this, we’ll have ample time to flesh out a plan for the balance of the year. Tim will also reach out to representatives of some neighboring towns to try to collaborate more closely in planning and publicizing these talks.
- CSC Points** – Betsy, Doug, Tim & Charlene
If we are going to attempt to qualify for additional points in the Climate Smart Communities program, we need to understand in detail exactly what we have already been awarded points for and which of those action items have expired and require recertification. With this information we can develop a strategy to go on to achieve additional points and, hopefully, silver status.
- NRI/OSP** – Peter, Bob, Perry and Tony
Peter expressed interest in pursuing the development of a Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Plan. Bob, Perry and Tony will work on this as well. Peter reported we will want to be able to respond to an RFP for grant funding by late Spring and grant applications will be due sometime over the summer.

3. **Next Meeting – Thursday January 22, 2026**