DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL/CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE TOWN OF TAGHKANIC

Meeting Minutes for Thursday, 23 July 2026

Present: Betsy Albert, Bob Brush, Doug Craig, Larry Kadish, David Starchild, Auggie Queros, Tim Kennelty, Charlene Paden (Co-Chair), Peter Paden(Co-Chair)

1. County/State Reports

- **Environmental Management Council** – Bob reported there is hope that positive changes are in the offing as new leadership is in place. Colleen Lutz has agreed to chair the group on an interim basis. Peter mentioned that the Columbia Land Conservancy is creating a staff position to work with communities and groups like ours around the County.
- **County Climate Smart Task Force** – Betsy reported that the County CSC is planning a Climate Summit at CGCC in early 2027. Don Meltz, County Planning/EMC, has circulated a poll to local CSC members to help shape this event. Committee members were encouraged to respond to the poll.

2. 2026 Work Plan

Taghkanic Talks/Walks – Committee members reported on the following:

- **Summer Walks**: Most participants reported back that the event(s), which took place on July 18 and 19, were very successful – well attended and informative. Many participants said they would like to see this as an annual event and the committee agreed we should plan to do that. Many thanks to Katy and Doug for advertising and to Heather McKenna for the beautiful signs. Attendees' emails will be added to our list.
- **August 22nd Panel on Meadow Making/Maintenance** – Panelists: Barbara Hughey, Claudia Knap, Linda Reardon and Debra Wren. Tim and Betsy will take care of publicity and logistics.
- **November Panel on Invasive Plants** was not Discussed

CSC Points/Actions – Betsy intends to be able to present an update on the following at our next meeting.

- Where do we stand? Any Changes?
- Schedule for any additional actions for points toward Silver status?

Natural Resource Inventory/Open Space Plan - Peter

- Status Report: The working group met in early July and have since sent out a Solicitation of Interest to 6-8 planning firms asking for input to help us get an application together. We have heard from three firms so far.
  By September, hopefully, we will have the input we need to begin to draft the grant application for the Fall.
- Next Steps: The Working Group will meet Monday, August 3rd at 4PM.

3. Progress on other programs/projects for 2026

- **Taghkanic Community Forest** – Betsy reported that there will be a big push in August to clear water chestnuts from Lake Lahr.
- **The Pollinator Garden** at the Taconic State Park Office - Betsy has a list of approved plants from the State and will purchase additional plants and set a date in August and enlist volunteers to add the new plants to the garden. Charlene will assist Betsy in this effort.
- **Dove Diner Charging Stations-** We will await Perry's report on the progress of the stations. (But they appear to be very close to completion.)

4. New Business:

- **Sharing Educational Opportunities with the Community:** There was a short discussion regarding whether we should share educational opportunities, such as webinars we become aware of, with our Taghkanic Talks mailing list. The Committee decided that we will continue to use the list only for our Taghkanic Talks events and news and the work of our CAC/CSC Committees.

5. Next CAC/CSC Meeting – Thursday, September 17th at 4PM