CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
TOWN OF TAGHKANIC, NEW YORK

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE TOWN BOARD FOR JULY 2026

The Conservation Advisory Committee and Climate Smart Communities Committee met via Zoom on July 23. A copy of the draft meeting minutes accompanies this report. Our First Annual Ecological Landscapes Taghkanic Walks event took place on the weekend of July 18-19. Eight community members who are engaged in varying forms of ecological restoration and stewardship opened their properties for people to see how such projects can be implemented, what it looks like and what the results can be. A nice write-up was posted in the TR-Gazette: https://www.tgazette.com/post/taghkanic-walks-ecological-landscapes. The walks were well attended. Participants expressed great interest and said they hoped the event would be repeated in years to come so they could track the progress of these projects. We intend to do it again next year.

In addition, our Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Plan working group met on July 6. Christine Vanderlan of the Hudson River Estuary Program, who manages the program's grants for this kind of work, joined us. We had a productive discussion with her about the nature of the NRI/OSP process, various ways other communities have gone about doing the work and how the grant program functions. Following that meeting, we circulated a "Solicitation of Interest" to a half dozen professional planning or environmental consulting firms, seeking preliminary input on the process we will propose and the potential cost, information we will need to prepare a compelling grant application. Three of those firms have already responded and indicated an interest in speaking with us about these matters. We continue to plan to be ready to submit a grant application to the NYS Estuary Program when requests for applications come out later in the year. As previously stated, whether to proceed with such an application will be a decision for the Town Board, and we will of course keep the Board apprized as our work goes forward.

The next session of our Taghkanic Talks series will take place on Saturday August 22 with an expert panel presenting on how to make and maintain a wildflower meadow.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter & Charlene Paden
July 29, 2026