



Sullivan County Parks, Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

March 14, 2019 AGENDA
10:30 AM

Committee Members:

Catherine Owens, Chair Nadia Rajs, Vice-Chair Mark McCarthy Terri Ward Scott Samuelson

Call to Order

Comments:

Presentation:

1. HeatSmart Ulster Sullivan campaign- Catskill Mountainkeeper

Reports:

1. Office of Sustainable Energy - Heather Brown
2. Parks & Recreation - Brian Scardefield
3. Agriculture Report - Melinda Meddaugh

Public Comment

Adjourn



Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy
SULLIVAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
 PO BOX 5012
 AddressCity, AddressState, AddressPostal

Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy Monthly Report for February 2019

County Operations

- OSE continues to manage administrative tasks associated with several grants including Clean Energy Communities (CCASL), Climate Smart Communities (Kohlertown), and Zero Emission Vehicles (Charging Stations). The first disbursement for the Clean Energy Communities Grant has been received.
- A Request for Qualifications has been issued seeking a NYSERDA FlexTech consultant to analyze and identify the most appropriate system for replacement of the domestic hot water at the CCASL. OSE anticipates that half of this cost will be recoverable through the NYSERDA FlexTech program.
- NYPA has provided the County with a proposal for advisory services related to the development of a solar array on the capped landfill(s). The proposal is being reviewed by the County Manager's Office, DPW and OSE.
- OSE has commenced training with ICLEI for Climate Action Planning. Training modules include topics such as vulnerability assessments which could be useful not only for an update to the existing Climate Action Plan but also for the Resiliency Plan that is being spearheaded by Planning.

Outreach

- OSE is updating the "Powering Sullivan" resource guide to reflect the numerous significant changes in programs and funding streams at the local and state level.
- OSE met with the Sustainable Bethel "Green Team" to discuss areas of potential partnerships as the Town and County both work towards achieving "Silver" certification in the Climate Smart Communities program.

- The Mamakating Library reached out to OSE about our participation in an upcoming series of discussions about sustainability. I will be speaking on May 2nd about renewable energy in New York State (small scale, community scale, and utility scale).
- Working with the Director of Communications, OSE has been in contact with Business View Magazine which plans to feature Sullivan County in an upcoming issue as part of their “Sustainable Cities” series.
- Attended the quarterly meeting of the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) and advocated for cost effective programs to bring clean energy to our businesses and residents.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension will be holding a forum on Resources for Clean Energy Projects on Thursday, March 28 at 6pm at the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library. This forum was rescheduled from February 20 due to inclement weather.



Sullivan County Parks, Recreation & Beautification

SULLIVAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

100 NORTH STREET

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March 2019 Monthly Report

- v The Sullivan County Historical Society will be hosting the annual Sullivan County BOCES Student Art Show. Students from the local school districts around the County will have their art displayed at the Cultural Center from March 8th through the end of the month.
- v I have been holding interviews for the seasonal positions at Fort Delaware and Lake Superior State Park. I have been able to fill a majority of the positions.
- v Starting to advertise for the annual 2019 Roadside Litter Pluck event. The event will be from April 20th through May 31st.
- v The park staff have been continuing to paint at several locations, maintaining equipment and participating in snow removal.
- v The Boy Scout has installed the duck houses around Sunset Lake for his Eagle Scout project. He is working on completing the required paperwork that goes along with the project. The houses look great and will hopefully provide shelter for future ducks.
- v I will be assisting Sullivan Renaissance with grant review for their Community Beautification Grants this month.
- v I am working with the planning department on the Trailkeeper.org website make over.
- v I met with the County Manager and discussed the Parks Departments 2019 goals. We will be focusing on several beautification projects in the parks throughout the year, refurbishing Fort Delaware, and also looking to increase usage of the parks and facilities.
- v I am working with the Sullivan County Snowmobile Trails Association to get the trails that they maintain by Mongaup Pond GPS'd so they can apply for a New York State Grant that the County used to assist them with in past years.



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Agriculture Report - Monthly Update

FEBRUARY 2019 AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS REPORT

FEBRUARY WORKSHOPS:

Estate & Succession Planning for Farmers: Wednesday, February 6th, 11am - 2pm. Ten farmers attended this workshop and learned about next steps for planning to transition the farm.

AgriTourism Workshop: Fridays in February, 10am - 12:30pm. Five local attendees participated in this regional webinar series to learn about risk management techniques for existing and new agritourism businesses. Attendees received assistance with developing their own risk management plans for their farm.

CATSKILLS KITCHEN FOOD INCUBATOR PROGRAM We have received 25 inquiries through phone, email and in-person contacts and provided 3 kitchen tours to potential users. We are in the process of developing the construction schedule and programming for the new teaching kitchen project and food business incubator workshop series. As part of the series, CCE Sullivan is working with the County Planning Department to offer a Training Series for Food Businesses. The series will take place in April and will consist of 8 classes, offered 2 times per week.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Staff assisted producers and partners with the following:

Beginner Farmer: Staff have conducted meetings with landowners looking to start farms. Staff have educated beginning farmers in the areas of ag assessment, ag districts, funding opportunities and production needs, along with handing out the Farmer Guide.

Farm Assistance: 70 inquiries through phone and email, 10 in person technical assistance and 2 farm visits. Assistance included business planning, poultry production, soil testing, hemp production, farm tax structures, greenhouses, hydroponics, bee production, agricultural districts, animal production, ag assessments, farmland preservation, value added dairy, food safety, permitting and licensing, grant writing, tire disposal, assistance with job postings, grant funding and beginner farmer inquiries. We conducted 10 soil tests in February.

Agri-Business Revolving Loan Fund: Staff continue to promote this program. We provided assistance to 4 inquiries.

STAFF TRAINING

Hemp Production Roundtable: Staff attended regional round table discussion to learn about updates and next steps in hemp production in the Hudson Valley. There are currently a few farms in Sullivan County who have licenses to produce hemp

Christmas Tree Association Roundtable: Staff attended and presented at the regional Christmas Tree Association roundtable to discuss ag assessments and ag districts with producers.

NYS Turf Grass Association Conference: Staff attended a 2 day conference to learn more about commercial landscaping and develop educational workshops within Sullivan County.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

March 9th: Make Your Own Biscotti

March 23rd: Learn to Make Puff Pastry

March 30th: Purchasing & Renting Farmland

April 2nd: Post-Harvest Handling: Washing & Packaging @ the Catskills Food Hub

April 3rd: Cooking Duck at Home

April 9th: Energy Opportunities for your Farm

April 9th: Ag Job Fair

April 10th: Business Planning Workshop