

Conservation Advisory Committee

Report to the Town Board

September 11, 2023

The CAC will be focusing on an Arbor Day Planting grant with the Ulster County Department of the Environment and hope to have that proposal to you within the month.

Due to the Board's positive actions and the resolutions you passed, we are also moving forward on the greenhouse gas inventory, and will be following through by collecting data on gallonage for gas and diesel usage by Town vehicles. These actions will move us forward on the first priority for bronze certification as a Climate Smart Community. We thank the Board for the networking capabilities that have been opened up to the CAC with the resolution passed last month and we will be attending future meetings with many more of the organizers we are now being introduced to.

Tonight I am also presenting a letter to the Board in regards to a lighting issue that some citizens have brought to our attention. Hopefully those who reached out to us will be viewing the meeting remotely and will know their requests to represent them have been heard. It reads:

Dear Supervisor Corcoran and Town Board Members:

As you know, the CAC has been investigating a light ordinance for the Town of Marlborough. The purpose of such an ordinance would be to control the amount of light emissions in the night sky by residents and businesses. This environmental concern is raised by research that has shown that light pollution can interfere with bird and wildlife living patterns, be intrusive on neighbors, and, putting it in dollars and cents, be more costly and use more carbon based electricity.

While we are quite distant in presenting documentation and any suggested ordinance, it has come to the attention of members of the CAC that the lighting at the Milton Landing and western Dock Road leading to the Train Station is not only excessive, it is glaring and dangerous when driving westward up the incline of the road. Besides being an efficiency question, it is reported that the upward direction and the intensity of these lights create a safety hazard. One verbal complaint also received was that the area is so brightly lit up it looks like a "prison yard". Aesthetically, this is in opposition to the tranquil atmosphere intended for the riverside park, both day and night.

We respectfully acknowledge that the security of the Train Station and park property is important to the Town, and we believe and hope that the Town-owned lighting and security systems that

are presently in place address these appropriately. However, we as The Town of Marlborough CAC, are especially sensitive to the resultant environmental issues that the intensity and positioning of the street lighting provided in this area of the lighting district is imposing. We therefore respectfully request that the Town contact Central Hudson to address the danger and the intensity of the light fixtures to both humans and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Mici Simonofsky
Chair

I also understand that the kayak launch is ready to be opened. The CAC offers our help to create an event to celebrate this success and ask for more information as you determine when that will happen.

On that note, If there are any residents who have event planning experience, or any skills they would like to use for the betterment of the community, we would welcome them to our committee. I can be reached through the Town website or the Town of Marlborough Conservation Advisory Committee Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted,

Mici Simonofsky, Chair pro tem