

Conservation Advisory Council
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Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council Annual Report – 2014

Pursuant to New York General Municipal Law Section 239-x Creation of conservation advisory council, the Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is submitting this annual report.

After a hiatus of almost two years during which no CAC meetings took place the CAC resumed monthly meetings in January 2014. Agendas and minutes of these meetings are posted on the CAC webpage.

During 2014 the CAC followed three proposed projects that have been before the Mount Kisco Planning Board. These proposed projects are The Hearth at Mount Kisco, an assisted living facility that would be built off Kisco Avenue on Kisco Mountain; a Jaguar/Land Rover auto dealership that would be built along Kisco Avenue; and a proposal by the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester to subdivide and sell a portion of their property that would be used to build several houses. With regard to The Hearth at Mount Kisco proposal, we submitted comments on the steep slopes and wetlands permits. The Boys and Girls Club proposal had to be modified and no longer includes the subdivision proposal but before the modification was made we did a site visit to look at the property. The Jaguar/Land Rover proposal is in an early stage and we have so far looked over some maps for the project.

The CAC gave a PowerPoint presentation on the STAR Community Rating System which was given at a public Village Board meeting. The STAR Community Rating System is a new sustainability assessment tool which can be used by towns, cities, and counties to move toward sustainability and improve quality of life. Communities that participate can obtain certification. The presentation is posted on the CAC webpage.

Members of the CAC attended three conferences during 2014. One conference, which was held at Sarah Lawrence College, was on green building codes. Another conference was the Westchester Climate Change Summit which was held at Pace University Law School. The third Conference was the 2014 New York State Conference on the Environment which has held in Binghamton. All three conferences were focused on climate change. Using some of the material presented at these conferences the CAC wrote a climate change report. Parts 1 and 2 of the report are posted on the CAC webpage. This report includes three recommendations. One recommendation is to participate in the Climate Smart Communities certification program. Another recommendation is to include a low carbon vision of Mount Kisco into a revised Comprehensive Development Plan. The final recommendation is to adopt green building codes.

We hope that the information that we have provided will help Mount Kisco adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Liebman
Chairperson, Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council