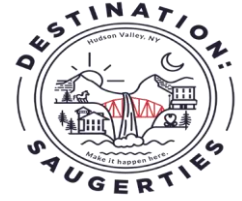




# COUNCILMAN HORTON



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## Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Issue No. 11, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Intent:

A concern that continues to surface amongst the public is the lack of communication between government and the members of the community in which that body of government operates. Open communication, or lack thereof, between elected officials and the citizens not only contributes to speculation and misinformation on issues, but also increases the divide and distrust between government and the people that the governing body serves. The time for correcting this issue is long overdue.

This newsletter offers a fact-based and bipartisan exchange of information in effort to assist the people of the community with staying up-to-date and informed on the issues concerning Saugerties. In addition to social media accounts, local bulletins, and the town website, this will be another resource for people to reference to better inform themselves on what has happened, what is happening, what will be happening, and information regarding upcoming events. The idea is that this resource outlines the most pressing issues relating to Saugerties. However, all other issues can and will be reported on based on the demand and feedback from the community.

### Winston Farm:

During the Town Board meeting held on 7/13/22, the Town Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution, as on file, pertaining to Saugerties Farms LLC for a Planned Development District (PDD), The Winston Farm Project. This approval included the acknowledgment of the State Environment Quality Review (SEQR) determination: Positive Declaration.

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A public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Saugerties on **Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Frank. D. Greco Memorial Senior Center, 207 Market Street, Saugerties NY. This is regarding the Draft Scope for the Winston Farm Planned Development District Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement ("DGEIS"). The Town of Saugerties Town Board, as Lead Agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), has determined that the proposed zoning amendment for the Winston Farm Planned Development District may have significant adverse impact on the environment.

**(Update 10-6-2022):** During the Board Meeting held on 9-21-2022, the residents of Saugerties, as well as interested/involved parties of the Winston Farm Project, gathered at the Senior Citizen Center for the public hearing regarding the scoping document related to the proposed project. Many individuals spoke out against the project, as well as in favor of the project. Overall, most of the speakers who relayed statements of opposition were displeased with what they believe to be "vagueness and exclusion of materials" related to the scoping document. Others also made statements related to water usage and availability as it pertains to the property and the proposed project.

Since this meeting, town officials have continued to engage with the town planner and other parties to further examine the scoping document, gather input from each party, and offer individual input and remarks before advancing. This meeting, as outlined in the above update, was merely a public hearing and the Town Board, nor any other invested party, made any decisions on the project proposal itself. More updates will be provided as they become available, and the public will continue to be made aware of all public events related to this project.

**(Update 1-5-23):** During the Town Board meeting held on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the first meeting of the year, the Town Board voted to adopt the final scoping document related to the Winston Farm Project. This document is available upon request and can be found on the Town of Saugerties website. The Town Board and all involved parties, including the Conservation Advisory Commission as an interested party/agency regarding this project, will continue to openly communicate throughout the SEQR process, as well as all other phases of this project. The Town Board will also continue to work diligently to keep the public informed throughout the process, and assure that all information, documentation, and any other related materials, are readily available. Please continue to check the Town of Saugerties website and local accounts of the town's elected officials for any future updates, meeting information, and project details.

**(Update 2-8-2023):** During the regularly scheduled Town Board meeting held on 2-8-23, the Saugerties Town Board voted on and passed the motion regarding H2M Architects and Engineers. H2M will be working in conjunction with the Town of Saugerties in regard to the Winston Farm Project, and the hydrogeological evaluation process, as well as assisting with the review of the Scoping Document. Currently, the developers of Winston Farm are completing their own water testing studies. Once completed, that data will be shared with the Town of Saugerties. Saugerties will then work with H2M to determine whether or not those findings are accurate and current. In the event the determination is made that these findings are inadequate in anyway, the Town will then reassess what further studies need to be completed on behalf of the developers to gain an accurate and appropriate comprehensive understanding of the site's hydrogeological status.

#### **Community Choice Aggregation Program (CCA):**

During the regular scheduled Town Board meeting on 3-15-23, Joule Assets representative, Jessica Stromback, addressed the Town Board, as well as the present members of the public, regarding an upcoming potential new Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) agreement. Currently, there are 13 surrounding municipalities interested in pursuing a new CCA contract, an increase of (3) from the last contract period. Currently, it was explained to the Town Board that this will be an automatic "opt in program" with residents needing to "opt out" in the event they do not wish to participate. Jessica Stromback elaborated and stated that this process is set up this way for utility customers to receive the best rates possible when Joule explores the energy market on behalf of the participating municipalities, as it was so phrased, "strength is in numbers."

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It was further explained that customers who participate can expect to see only one bill, which will continue to come from Central Hudson. On that bill, customers can expect to see a line item which will reflect the savings/credits of this program. Currently, Joule is progressing through the bidding process, and no official agreement has been entered on behalf of the Town of Saugerties utility customers. Please stay tuned for additional updates regarding this potential new CCA agreement.

#### **Upcoming Local Elections:**

This November, elections for the following offices will be taking place:

Saugerties Town Supervisor  
Saugerties Town Board (2 seats)  
Town of Saugerties Justice  
Receiver of Taxes  
Ulster County Legislator (Districts 1, 2, and 3)

If you are interested in any of these offices, please contact the Chairs of your local affiliated political party.

**(Update 3-2-23):** Local political parties have begun to screen candidates, as well endorse candidates regarding the following upcoming Saugerties and Ulster County positions:

Ulster County Executive  
Ulster County District Attorney  
County Legislators (Districts 1, 2, and 3)  
Town of Saugerties Justice  
Receiver of Taxes

**(Update 3-29-23):** Regarding the elected offices outlined above,

The Saugerties Democrat Party has endorsed the following candidates:

Fred Costello: Supervisor  
Mike Ivino: Town Board  
Leeanne Thornton: Town Board  
Jill Zarcone: Receiver of Taxes  
Aaron Levine: County Legislator, District 1  
Joe Maloney: County Legislator, District 2  
Keith Gurgui: County Legislator, District 3

Additional updates regarding endorsements from the Working Families, Republican, and Conservative Parties will be forthcoming.

#### **Saugerties Dog Park:**

Site work has commenced at the Saugerties Dog Park location. Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with other Town staff, have begun grading, though it's likely that more material is needed in order to have a successfully even-graded area. Additionally, the construction and installation of the drainage pipes and fencing have begun as well. Officials for The Town of Saugerties are optimistic that this dog park location will be available for use soon.

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**(Update 3-29-23):** Progress continues to be made at the future Saugerties Dog Park location. Fencing construction is underway and grading is nearly complete. The grading required more material than was originally planned. However, Parks and Recreation had enough material in their stockpiles to add as necessary. Additionally, there will be the removal of some small trees near the proposed parking area, as this will help to expand the handicap accessible parking spaces for this location. Sod will be put down soon, and the necessary piping will be connected to this location to assist with the treatment of the sod. Please stay tuned for additional updates as this project progresses and nears completion.

#### **Town Board Meeting, 3-15-2023:**

During this regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, the Board voted on and approved the resolutions, as on file with the Town of Saugerties, regarding the property maintenance interventions for the following locations:

1099 Old Kings Highway  
14 Doyle's Lane

The Town Board also voted on and approved the resolution, as on file with the Town of Saugerties, to state the town's support of actions by The New York State Public Service Commission and New York State Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations to address harms caused to Town of Saugerties Utility Customers, because of mass billing problems. Please stay tuned for further updates as New York State's investigation of Central Hudson and their billing practices progresses.

#### **Stormwater Management Report (DRAFT) 2023:**

The Town of Saugerties DRAFT annual stormwater report is available for review and comment until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This can be found here: <https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content>. Comments can be sent to Alvah Weeks at the Stormwater Management Office: 4 High Street, Saugerties, NY 12477, or sent via email: [aweeks@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:aweeks@saugertiesny.gov). These comments will be accepted up until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, or in person at the Town Board meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, during the public comment period.

#### **Platte Clove Road and Winter Parking Rules:**

Per the Town of Saugerties Highway Department, Platte Clove Road remains closed. Currently, the planned date for reopening this route will be April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Please refer to the Town of Saugerties website for any updates and date changes.

**(Update 3-29-23):** Winter parking rules in the Village of Saugerties have been lifted as of 3-15-23. Please note that in the event of a late-season storm, cars must be removed from Village streets to aid in snow removal. Regarding the Town of Saugerties, the Winter parking rules will be lifted on 4-15-23.

#### **Saugerties Green and Clean Days:**

The Town of Saugerties has announced its Green and Clean Days: 4-15, 4-16, 4-22, and 4-23. All Saugerties residents are invited to celebrate Earth Day (4-22), by pitching in to clean up roadside litter throughout the town. The sign-up sheet and designated orange trash bags with the Town of Saugerties logo on them, will be available at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall (4 High Street) beginning on 4-3-23, and at no cost to volunteers. You may pick your area upon signup and volunteer alone, or as a team.

Filled orange trash bags can be left on the roadsides and will be picked up by the Highway Department on Wednesday, 4-19-23 and Monday, 4-24-23. As a friendly reminder, please note that the following items cannot be included in the litter that will be collected by the Highway Department: paint, electronics, TVs. The Town of Saugerties thanks you in advance

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for your willingness to volunteer and be a part of this initiative!

### **Upcoming Events & Information:**

#### **Town Board Meetings:**

- Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm (pre board beginning at 6:30pm)
- In-person at the Senior Citizen Center
- WebEx available
- Agenda (TBD)

#### **Town of Saugerties Planning Board:**

- Public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm
- Meeting will special use permits for a mobile veterinary business, excavation business, and a site plan and special use permit amendment to existing ground-mounted solar array
- Please contact Becky Bertorelli for additional information: [bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:bbertorelli@saugertiesny.gov)

#### **Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Dinner/Induction**

- Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> at Diamond Mills
- Doors will open at 5:00pm for a cocktail and greeting hour
- Dinner and induction ceremony to follow at 6:30pm
- Tickets are available by contacting Mike Hasenbalg: 914-388-2348 ; [mikehasenbalg@yahoo.com](mailto:mikehasenbalg@yahoo.com)
- The cost per ticket is \$30.00

#### **Community Action:**

- Anti-poverty agency serving Ulster and Sullivan counties
- Providing a comprehensive approach to the needs of the economically disadvantaged through a variety of services
- One highlighted program; monthly farm of stand of free and healthy vegetables to the Saugerties Senior Center
- Program will begin on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>, and will take place once per month until it concludes on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>
- For additional information, contact Outreach Program Director Suzy Hinchey: 845-338-8750
- <https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org:10234/content/Generic/View/607>

#### **Pickleball:**

- Pickleball games will be happening every Wednesday from 12:00pm-2:00pm at Donlon Auditorium
- Cost is \$10, with all proceeds going towards the construction of the Saugerties Pickleball Courts
- To reserve a spot, please call Diane Myers at 845-217-7981

#### **Upstate Films/Orpheum Theater:**

- Third Thursday of each month
- All proceeds from popcorn sales are donated to a local not-for-profit partner
- Please visit the town website for further information <https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org>

### **Job Openings:**

#### **Part-Time School Crossing Guard**

- \$14.00/hr.

**\*Please visit the town website for further job opening information and application details\***

<https://townsaugerties.digitaltowpath.org>

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