

## **Shade Structures in Public Places Policy**

**Motion** - to adopt a Shade Structures Policy for Town-owned Properties.

### **Shade Structures in Public Places**

In addition to the large Cantine Veterans Complex, the Town owns eight satellite parks that provide recreational opportunities for the public and where shade structures provide a public benefit.

A Shade Structures in Public Places Policy advances a primary function of government, that is, to ensure the health and safety of its citizens. The Town of Saugerties in adopting such a policy seeks to protect the public from high-heat conditions, ultraviolet radiation, and to provide cost-effective and aesthetically pleasing shade for the benefit of the public. Shade structures such as trees, gazebos and covered outdoor facilities provide such protection. The adoption by local governments of a Shade Structures in Public Places Policy is one of the actions suggested by the New York State Climate Smart Communities Program. The adoption of a policy better positions the Town to obtain grants to provide shade structures.

### **Town of Saugerties Shade Structures in Public Places Policy**

The Policy pertains to town-owned properties and contains the following provisions:

- Development projects on town-owned properties integrate shade structures when and where appropriate;
- Consideration be given to provide shade structures when upgrades to existing properties is undertaken;
- Opportunities to install shade structures on town-owned properties be evaluated;
- Areas on town-owned properties that are particularly vulnerable to high heat be identified;
- When considering shade structures for a particular area, the Town seeks community input;
- Existing shade structures be assessed as to their suitability;
- Department Heads and community groups such as the Village of Saugerties Tree Commission and the Conservation Advisory Commission be engaged in making recommendations for implementation of the Policy;
- The Policy be incorporated into the comprehensive planning process;
- A person designated by the Town Board be charged with overseeing the implementation of the Policy;
- The Policy be reviewed every three years to assess its effectiveness;
- Priority be given to tree planting as a means of shade protection;
- When possible and practical, maximum protection of shade trees will occur;
- When replacing a mature tree, two trees be planted, and when practical and possible three trees.
- When feasible, native species of trees will be provided as shade.

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Approved by: Town Board on February 6, 2019