Shandaken CAC Meeting Monday, September 21, 2026
Agenda
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call -B. Waterman, K. Lee, N. Caputo, C. del Tufo, P. Mansfield, M. Spark
Guest: John Milo, DEC Biologist - BearWise Program.

July Minutes Approved: C. Del Tufo made motion, P. Mansfield seconds.

Announcements:
Eco-Card Opening will be on 9/26/26 4-6 p.m. at 1053 Gallery in Fleischman's
Eagle Day covered by The Overlook, highlighting work on environmental threats to eagles.
Volunteers needed for planting at GlenBrook park on Sept 26 & 27.

Main meeting discussion: Shandaken's BearWise Campaign: kick off at Phoenicia Farmer's Market. Follow up reports on research by committee members to learn more about community issues relating to bears and bear proofing: Restaurants, dumpsters, STRs. "Scare the Bear" was a deterrent technique that surprised most.

N. Caputo started social media campaign, called "Shandaken Bearwise".
To date: 161 followers and 350 posts, original content and reposts.
M. Spark presented information regarding local trash haulers (Waste Mgmt, Lamella, County Waste), resident access to bear proof containers and associated costs. Options for ways to help offset associated costs were discussed.
K. Lee reported she, M. Lilly and B. Rapkin will be visiting local restaurants to learn more about bear proof container management.

Other deterrent techniques such as electrified bear "un-welcome" mat, decals, portable electric fence available through DEC, eliminating attractants: bird feeders; reinforce shed structures, library lending program for bear horns.

J. Milo, DEC Wildlife Biologist presented:
Residents hesitate to call about nuisance bears for fear of euthanasia.
Shandaken statistics:
The DEC has received 27 complaints to date vs. 17 in 2025 .
2 bears euthanized May 28 and Aug 12. One killed by Chichester landowner, DEC issued permit. Reason: trap malfunction - bear got out, bear entered the home.
10 shed/garage break ins.
FOIL request from township asking the DEC for Shandaken, Hardenburgh, & Olive, submitted a couple of weeks ago. Town scuttlebutt about false information about the number of bears being put down.
Information is public record-state law DEC can only make recommendations.

Compost update – P. Mansfield
Required document signed to officially Transfer of Jura composters today. Next step
Not enough compost created to be shared with town residents.

Comprehensive Plan – Karen - Two public meetings are to be held at town hall: 10/5/26 at 6:15, one TBD.
Community Climate Action Plan – Maya temp suspended.
Natural Resource Inventory – B. Waterman & C. delTufo
zoom meeting 8/18th, a few new ideas, mapping 10/29 for follow up meeting.
completion expected by start of the new year.
Glen brook park this Sat and Sunday pollinator plants to be installed. 10 am to 4 pm.
Pollinator Pathway, Dark Sky Community – C. del Tufo, N. Caputo - no update.
Plastics - K. Lee - 9/13 CCAPP at farmer's market. 10/25 - next visit to farmers market

Motion to adjourn, second P. Mansfield
Next CAC meeting – Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6.30 p.m.