

Volume 3 Issue 6  
June 2021



Climate Smart  
Communities  
Certified Bronze

# New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

## June Climate Change Solutions *Meetup*: Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Project in New Paltz

Our Climate Change Solutions Meetup normally meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. We have been meeting for almost three years now and cover a wide range of topics. It happens that there is a virtual public information meeting this month on the following Tuesday on a topic that is very much a climate change solution: improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. The Task Force therefore decided that this will be our Meetup this month! Here are the details: Alta Planning + Design invites you to attend the virtual public information meeting for the Henry W. Dubois Drive Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Project (PIN 8762.48). This will be an opportunity for the project team to provide a progress update, present the preferred alternative, discuss design details, and address some of your comments and questions. The meeting will begin with a 20-minute presentation followed by a 45-minute workshop to discuss design details related to traffic calming, separation barrier, and landscaping, and will conclude with a 10-15-minute question and answer session. Participants **must** register for the zoom meeting using the link below.



**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 8th at 6:00-7:30PM

**Zoom Registration Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/t5xxr696>

(After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.)



If you cannot attend the meeting or prefer to see the design details in person, presentation materials will be available for review at the New Paltz Town Hall located at 52 Clearwater Ave., New Paltz, NY starting on June 9th. A recording of the public meeting will be posted on the project website. Public questions/comments can be submitted via the question/comment form, found at the link below. **Comments are due by June 23, 2021. Walk/Bike Henry W. Dubois: Public Comment Form:** <https://forms.gle/T5yXc8TnrUqD3PZq5>

**Website:** <https://walkbikehwd.weebly.com/>

In the meantime, if you have any questions please visit the project website or reach out to the Alta Planning + Design team via email at [HWD@altago.com](mailto:HWD@altago.com).

# WALK/BIKE HENRY W. DUBOIS



## VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

TUESDAY  
JUNE 8, 2021  
6:00 - 7:30 PM

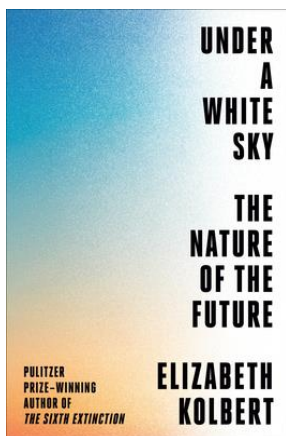
REGISTER: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/T5XXR696](https://tinyurl.com/t5xxr696)

Visit the project website for more information:  
[www.walkbikeHWD.weebly.com](http://www.walkbikeHWD.weebly.com)

At this virtual public meeting, Alta will present the preferred alternative and discuss the design details regarding Henry W Dubois Drive (PIN 8762.48).



## Climate Smart Book Club: June Book Pick



The June pick for our Climate Smart Book Club is *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future* by Elizabeth Kolbert. In this her latest book the author takes a hard look at the new world we are creating. While reading her book, we meet biologists who are trying to preserve the world's rarest fish, which lives in a single tiny pool in the middle of the Mojave; engineers who are turning carbon emissions to stone in Iceland; Australian researchers who are trying to develop a super coral that can survive on a hotter globe; and physicists who are contemplating shooting tiny diamonds into the stratosphere to cool the earth.

One way to look at human civilization, says Kolbert, is as a ten-thousand-year exercise in defying nature. In her book *The Sixth Extinction*, she explored the ways in which our capacity for destruction has reshaped the natural world. Now she examines how the very sorts of interventions that have imperiled our planet are increasingly seen as the only hope for its salvation. So read or listen to the book and join us for the discussion on June 15th! Our Climate Smart Book Club meets every month on the third Tuesday on Zoom. See the link below.

Topic: Climate Smart Book Club

Time: Jun 15, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91066225574?pwd=TIVKMU9vNWkxMGE5ZzdTM2VabWMxQT09>

Meeting ID: 910 6622 5574

Passcode: 605408

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,91066225574#,,,\*605408# US (New York)

## Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)

*By Amanda Gotto*

This project is finally nearing completion! Feedback from our elected officials has been incorporated into the final report. The completed NRI project is on the agenda for adoption at the June 3 Town and Village Boards' joint meeting. Once the NRI report and Story Boards are formally approved and adopted by our elected officials, hard copies of the report will be available at Town and Village Hall and at the Elting Library. The electronic version of the NRI report and the online Story Boards will be posted on the Town and Village websites for all in the community to use and enjoy.

## Pollinator Paradise Garden and Public Compost Bins

*By Amanda Gotto*

The compost bins are built! A 15-minute composting workshop is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, at 10AM at the Community Center parking lot. Come see the lovely bins that were built by our volunteers and hear about what makes a successful compost bin work. Bring your veggie and fruit scraps if you would like to be among the first to "inaugurate" the bins!

The pollinator plants and topsoil are ordered! Planting is scheduled for Saturday, June 19, starting at 10AM. Please join us - all are welcome to participate in creating the Pollinator Paradise Garden!

If you would like to get involved in this project, please contact us at [newpaltzpollinatorparadise@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzpollinatorparadise@gmail.com). We can use all the help we can get!

And if you would like to donate, here is the link:

GoFundMe <https://gofund.me/7729e48f>



# Celebrate the Life of Dan Guenther – A True Champion of Climate Activism

## A Memorial Gathering to Celebrate the Life of Dan Guenther

**Saturday, June 12, 2021**

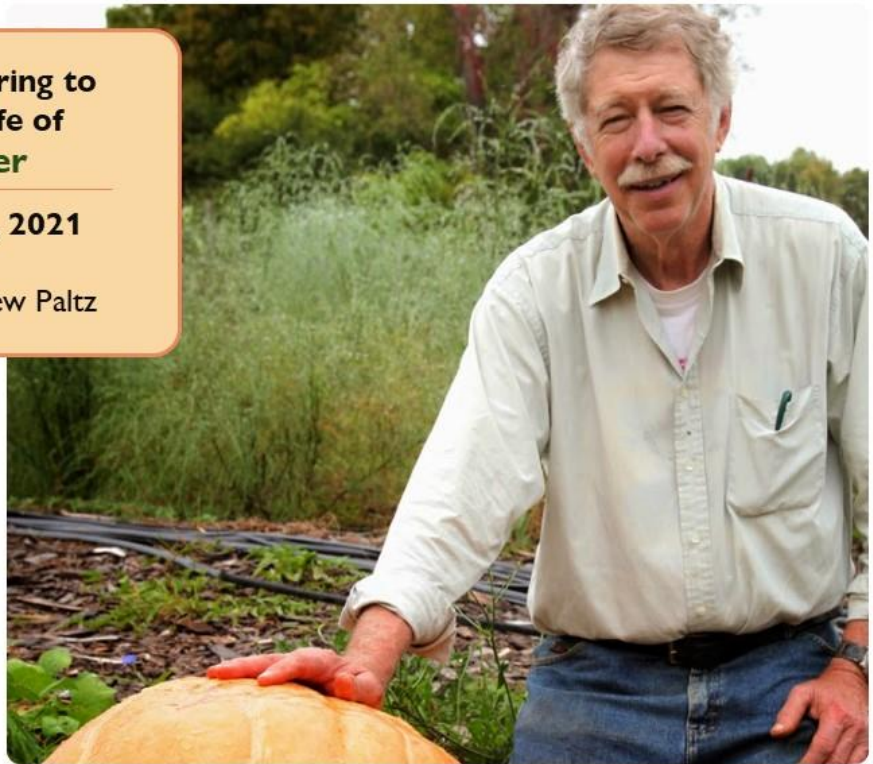
11 am - 3 pm

Hasbrouck Park in New Paltz

Friends and family of **Dan and Ann Guenther** are invited to celebrate Dan's life and carry on his legacy of building community.

Come by any time between 11 am and 3 pm. Remembrance Addresses will begin at 12 pm and 2 pm.

Please bring your own water and a chair or blanket. Face masks are required for this event.



You are invited to contribute to our Memory Wall. Please bring a printed photo or a written story of a favorite moment with Dan to share. If you cannot attend the gathering but would like to share one of your memories, please email Laura Wyeth at [Lwyeth@protonmail.com](mailto:Lwyeth@protonmail.com).

## New Paltz Zoom Garden Plot

After meeting three times, it has been decided to let the New Paltz Zoom Garden Plot rest for now. Our participation has been low but it may have been because so many were out preparing their garden beds and planting their gardens! Certainly this is an idea that we can circle back to when there is more interest. Many thanks to Barbara Neiman for her vision and leadership. Please email [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com) if you have an interest in continuing this concept or subjects that you would like to see covered on gardening in the future.



# Atypical Earth Day Fair, April 2021

By Jim O'Dowd

Since 2002 there has been an Earth Day Fair on the grounds of the Reformed Church of New Paltz. Then in 2020 Covid arrived and it was cancelled. So, this year the New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, the New Paltz Interfaith Earth Action and the Caring for Creation Committee of the Reformed Church decided that safety and caution came first so there would not be the typical Earth Day Fair. Determined to make lemonade out of lemons, instead there was an "Atypical Earth Day Fair Unbound."

An online series on You Tube channel, [bit.ly/earthdayunbound](https://bit.ly/earthdayunbound), featured earth-conscious presenters (call it techno tabling!) offering a variety of environmental information and perspectives which you can still watch. In addition, community faith leaders offered caring for creation blessings from their varied traditions. Music was provided by former Earth Day Fair performers. There were memorial tributes to John Wackman and Dan Guenther, who were both such important parts of past Earth Day programs and such community champions for the environment.

As in the past, the flags of all the countries of the earth were flying over Huguenot Street - thank you Ann and Dan Guenther! Each country's environmental footprint was ranked with a green, yellow, orange or red sticker (lowest to highest) attached to their flagpole and included the number of per-capita tons of greenhouse gas they emit. The color coded stickers provided a short-hand way of comparing countries greenhouse gas emissions.



New this year were informational signs with environmental tips and factoids stretching along the rail trail from Broadhead to Mulberry Street. The Flags and the signs along the rail trail attracted so much attention that it was decided to let them fly (and stand) for another week.

Next year will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Earth Day Fair in New Paltz and here's

hoping it'll be live, in-person and grander than ever!

## New Paltz Climate Smart May Calendar

**Saturday, June 5, at 10:00 am:** 15 minute composting workshop & inauguration of the public compost bins. Meet at the Community Center parking lot.

**Tuesday June 8th 6:00 pm:** Climate Solutions Meetup: <https://tinyurl.com/t5xxr696>

**Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am – 3:00 pm:** Celebrate the Life of Dan Guenther at Hasbrouck Park in New Paltz

**Tuesday June 15th at 7:00 pm** Climate Smart Book Club: Under A White Sky  
<https://zoom.us/j/91066225574?pwd=TIVKMU9vNWkxMGE5ZzdTM2VabWMxQT09>

**Monday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm** monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting  
[Link to Zoom Meeting of Task Force](#)

**Monday June 28th at 7:00 pm** Ulster County Climate Smart Committee  
<https://zoom.us/j/94174947702>

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please contact Janelle Peotter, Climate Smart Coordinator at [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com)



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