

Climate Smart Communities Task Force
July 1, 2020 Minutes
via video teleconference

Present

Steve Powers CSC Chair, CAC Rep

Bruce Shenker CSC Coordinator, NLR rep To CC Env Management Council

Jenna Barbary-Glovsky CAC Rep

Steven Dono

Adelia Moore

Elizabeth Poreba

Carole Roseman

Sarah Steadman

Cathy Wilkerson

Absent

Marc Frey

Marsha Kessler

Marc Anthonisen advisor

Cynthia Creech, CAC member and Economic Development Committee member

Peg Munves, CAC member

Sharon Powers, Economic Development Committee member

Members of the public

Steve Powers began the meeting at 7PM by having the Task Force approve last month's minutes. He then gave an update characterizing the past month as "productive." The Compost subcommittee has met twice but the Social Media subcommittee is waiting for the town lawyer to rewrite the social media rules for the Town Board approval. In the meantime, Steve P has volunteered to help set up a Facebook page for the town. He also noted that he, Marc and David Farren, CAC Chair and Comprehensive Plan Review Committee member met with Ted Salem, Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee to discuss Climate Smart Communities input for the next Comprehensive Plan. It was decided that David Farren and Cynthia Creech, CAC member and Comprehensive Plan Review Committee member would provide coordination with the Task Force.

Rules for the Task Force's procedures were then discussed, amended and unanimously approved as follows:

Chair responsibilities: Sets agenda, speaks on behalf of the Task Force in an official capacity, coordinates meetings, presents Task Force proposals to Town Board, approves subcommittee chairs

Coordinator responsibilities: NL Representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council shall serve as the Climate Smart Communities Coordinator submitting completed Task Force actions to the concerned authorities.

Secretary: Records the minutes of the meetings and distributes minutes to appropriate people. Writes other Task Force documents as requested by Chair and Task Force

Task Force members: Appointed by the Town Board, attend meetings, carry out tasks that have been approved by the entire Task Force

Subcommittees: Subcommittee is formed by majority vote by Task Force. Led by a chair and recorded by a secretary, all proposals or recommendations must be presented to and approved by the full Task Force with majority vote before they go to the town board

Proxy voting is not allowed ie one must be at a meeting to vote. A quorum (50% of Task Force) is required for voting.

After he was unanimously approved as an Advisor to the Task Force, Marc Anthonisen of Cornell gave a presentation providing an overview of the town's progress toward Climate Smart Certification, categorizing actions as completed, almost completed, and in progress. He noted the following:

- Data on LED street lights has been submitted; the Town is now officially a Clean Energy Community.
- The Government Operations GHG Inventory _a priority action toward Bronze certification worth as many as 16 points, should be completed by August.
- The Free Store and Bike recycling center is in operation and will provide 6 points toward resource recovery.
- An updated application for an EV charging station, another priority action, has been submitted.
- Paperwork on the Trees for Tributaries action will be submitted and provide 2 points.
- A Comprehensive Community Climate Action Plan, also a priority action, is in the works. Bruce pointed out that the two walking trails—Corkscrew and Shaker Swamp—should be included in this plan.

- A Farmers' Market is already in operation and must be supported by the Town in some way in order to provide points. Since the Market had been approved by the Board, perhaps only paper work needs to be submitted to gain points for this effort.
- A Hazard Mitigation Plan is the next big focus for future efforts.

Jenna reported on the Compost Subcommittee's two meetings in June. The committee examined examples from other towns, constraints, and problems. They considered the possibility of sending town compost to an outside company, though a problem is that they do not know how much volume to expect. Another possibility is joining with Darrow's low heat "vegan" composting system or with the town's community garden. Educating private citizens to have their own composting systems in place is an additional consideration.

It was unanimously agreed to form a Subcommittee to investigate possible sources of solar energy for the Town. Carole and Marc A were able to commit, while Bruce and Bob, though willing to volunteer, were not yet sure they could.

Steve P. indicated that as Chair he would be sitting in on all subcommittees in an ex-officio role to monitor and break ties in votes if required.

Regarding sustainable agriculture, Marc A pointed out that a food access program was in the works via the Business and Development Committee and Carole has had discussions about a possible food hall. There was some discussion about whether or not the encouragement of sustainable agriculture is within the provenance of the task force. It was resolved to table the idea of forming a subcommittee on this topic until Jill was consulted to see if doing so would yield points.

The Task Force next considered a question from the Town Board: Should open meeting rules apply to subcommittees? The consensus was that this was a question for the town lawyer and town board, with no precedent for a decision at this point. It was requested that clarification be presented to the Task Force as soon as possible.

As the meeting was being adjourned, Adelia suggested that members regularly expect that meetings should take 90 minutes. It was also decided to hold the next meeting remotely.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on August 5 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Poreba Secretary