

Climate Smart Communities Task Force  
November 4, 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  
Adelia Moore  
Peg Munves  
Elizabeth Poreba  
Sarah Steadman  
Cathy Wilkerson

Marc Anthonisen advisor

Jill Henck, Clean Energy Coordinator  
Josh Young

Absent

Bob Gilson  
Marsha Kessler

Steve Powers began the meeting at 7:06 PM .

After approval of the minutes, Steve announced that Josh Young has submitted a letter of intent to join the Task Force, which will be up for a vote at the Nov. 10 meeting of the Town Board. He welcomed new Task Force member Peg Munves, who has been a long time member of the CAC.

Steve reported that the Town and Task Force Facebook groups are up and running, with about 360 members in the Town group, and about 65 members in the Task Force group.

Members who have been presiding over the Task Force table at the Farmers' Market characterized their weekly presence as "productive," leading to discussions and queries about environmental concerns. Marc reported that the Farmers' Market presence generated more activity for the bike program than Facebook. For the next, and last, two Sundays the Task Force table will also be a place to drop off clothing donations.

Jill then described the possibility of getting a grant from a new pilot program, the "Local Champions," which will award funds to selected communities that have made the CSC pledge but need assistance to get to the Bronze level. The money, \$8000, could be used as a stipend for a coordinator or for charitable work related to a CSC project. Since Marc has already mapped our path toward Bronze, he suggested that the money be used to pay the Cornell intern who will replace him. The difficulty is that the town may reach the Bronze level before the grant comes up for approval. Jill suggested the Task Force apply anyway, since the application does not require describing how the grant would be used.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to go ahead with the Local Champions Program application subject to approval by the town board in their next meeting. Steve will do the application if the town board approves it.

Liz reported on the October 14 meeting of the Social Media subcommittee, in which members decided to create short, informational pieces to let members of the community know the purpose of the CSC Task Force and to explain the certification process. So far, Steve has posted 3 of these. Peg said she had learned how to post pdf's on Facebook and would share that information with him.

Marc reported that the bike program continues to "hum along," with about 3 bikes in and 3 out every week. Because many people are offering cash donations, the program is looking for a way to handle the money transparently on a cash basis, with no bank account. Given the small size of the program, setting up as a non-profit is not advisable. The program will also need a coordinator to replace Marc starting next summer. Adelia suggested that the putative "Local Champions" grant could be used as a stipend for such a person and/or for bike parts. Marc noted that the program is popular and will only continue to grow. The Abode may be able to supply needed storage space since the bikes are currently under a tarp and will need further protection this winter.

Sarah said that the rack outside Family Dollar is working very well and has the building owner's support. The donated items are invariably gone by the end of week. There have been some requests for clothing at the Town Hall, but the rack is the main mode of distribution. The Free Store will be soliciting donated coats and children's clothes to be dropped off at the Farmers' Market CSC table. This will be followed by a clothing give away on November 22, 11AM, at the LVPA A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Free Store flyers.

Steve reported that Bob had begun the fleet inventory, which will be completed soon and will earn 4 points.

Regarding the Composting subcommittee, Jenna is working on a sign to be posted in the Community Garden reminding people what and how to compost. So far, compliance has been good.

Jill created a resolution to promote Community Solar that the Solar subcommittee edited, which will be voted on at the November 10 Town Board meeting. The next job for the Solar subcommittee will be meeting with and vetting Community Solar projects, with an eye toward finding the best deals and the source of energy, with a preference for local sources. The motion was made, seconded and passed to submit the resolution to the Town Board.

Peg mentioned that as a member of the public, she had had trouble hearing the latest Town Board meeting on Zoom

Bruce reported that the process of Columbia County becoming a Climate Smart Community is well underway.

Regarding new business, Adelia suggested that the use of non-recyclable take-out packaging at local restaurants is a concern. A subcommittee looking into that could earn points as PE 5 Waste Reduction Education Campaign, or, more broadly, PE9. Education. Apropos of education, Bob

has reached out to the high school for students who might be interested in joining the Task Force. The Abode had been doing educational outreach, but their efforts had been put on hold by Covid-19. Offering an educational program via the library is a possibility. The motion to form a Climate Change Education and Engagement Subcommittee was made, seconded, and passed. Adelia, Liz, Sarah and Steve will be members.

Adelia mentioned another matter of new business: facilitating biking and walking in the town. In light of previous resistance to proposals regarding this issue, it was decided to table this matter for the time being.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on December 2, at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Poreba

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