

Climate Smart Communities Task Force
January 6, 2021 Minutes
via video teleconference

Present

Steve Powers CSC Chair, CAC Rep
Bruce Shenker CSC Coordinator, NL rep To CC Env Management Council
Jenna Barbary-Glovsky CAC Rep
Bob Gilson, CAC Rep
Adelia Moore
Peg Munves
Elizabeth Poreba
Cathy Wilkerson

Marc Anthonisen advisor
David Farren CAC Chair

Absent. Marsha Kessler, Sarah Steadman, Josh Young

Steve Powers began the meeting at 7:02PM .

With one change, minutes from the December 2 meeting were approved.

Steve announced that he and Marc, after some 7 hours of work, had finished compiling a list of action items worth 139 points toward the goal of 120 points for Bronze certification. They included extras because some items may be rejected if not sufficiently documented.

He noted that the list is composed of genuine actions that are “important and on-going.” Jill is currently going through the list, which must be submitted by January 8, to make sure details — such as signatures on resolutions — are in place. He said he doubts that any other town has been able to do so much in so short a time; the Task Force was not approved until April, 2020. He said that the support of the Town Board has been a key factor.

Marc said he is already mapping out “The Road to Silver,” certification, which requires completing action items worth a total of 300 points. Some items are already in process: an electric vehicle charging station, solarization, and a community greenhouse gas inventory. We will know if we have achieved Bronze by February 26. If we do not get it then, the chances are good that we will get it in April.

Adelia reported on the Education and Outreach (formerly known as Social Media)

Subcommittee. At a meeting on Jan. 6, they determined that their work has two strands: one strand consists of posts for the Facebook group concerning the work of the Task Force or items of environmental interest. (Steve urged members to invite friends to join this group.)

The second strand will involve programs that go beyond social media; for instance, a contest at the high school to design a logo for a recyclable shopping bag. The motion was made and seconded for the Education and Outreach Subcommittee to put together a proposal, to be presented to the Town Board, for creating a recyclable bag with a logo designed by the winner of a contest at the high school.

Marc reported that the bike repair program was submitted for 5 points in the current Bronze application. They currently have 30 bikes at the Abode and 20 ready to go. The goal is to have 60 ready for spring.

With his eye toward the town's eventual Silver certification, Marc suggested that there is much work to be done in the PE7 category, Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Resilience. He shared his research on climate risks confronting the town in general, with a particular focus on drought. Drought is currently 17th on the list of climate hazards, but it is moving up and will bring with it dry wells, crop damage, a disrupted ecosystem, and wildfires. Peg added that the town is in the midst of a water study, and Marc's work complements it. Marc said that in his research he worked to "extrapolate climate projections down to the community level." Steve shared the website that Ampion is designing for the town. The wording on the first page is to be changed. Signing up on the website should begin soon, probably after the Governor's State of the State address next week. It is not yet clear if the school district will sign up with this service, or if small businesses in town would qualify.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on February 3 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Poreba

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