

Climate Smart Communities Task Force  
December 2, 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  
Bob Gilson, CAC Rep  
Adelia Moore  
Peg Munves  
Elizabeth Poreba  
Cathy Wilkerson

Marc Anthonisen advisor  
Chris Dreyfus

Absent. Marsha Kessler, Sarah Steadman, Josh Young

Steve Powers began the meeting at 7:04PM .

After approval of the minutes, Steve noted that the Town and Climate Smart Communities Facebook group pages are now on the town website, though finding the links requires scrolling. He will see if they can be shown more prominently. He generally posts a new item every couple of days and welcomes posts from all Task Force members.

He reported that he is ready to apply for the Local Champions pilot program after the Town Board approved it. He attended an information call and learned that many other towns are also applying for the few grants available, but he is going to go ahead and apply anyway, by the Dec. 14 deadline.

The upgrading of interior lighting in town buildings, which will earn up to 5 points, will soon take place. NYSERDA will pay up to 70% of the installation costs.

A motion from last month's meeting to form a subcommittee looking into a waste reduction education campaign (which could earn points as PE 5 Waste Reduction Education Campaign, or, more broadly, PE9. Education) elicited considerable discussion. A motion was made and approved to merge three subcommittees — Social Media, Waste Reduction Education, and Climate Change Education — under the title Education and Outreach Subcommittee. The members are Adelia, Peg, Liz, Cathy, Bruce, and Bob. Its first meeting will be at 11:30 on December 9.

Steve announced that a new recycling center will open next to the post office. The owner, Michael Creary, expressed interest in partnering with the Task Force in this endeavor, the

proceeds of which are to go to charities. Adelia suggested that the space might be good for a Climate Smart Communities bulletin board.

An update about bike repairs and resource recovery contained good news. The Free Store's November 22 clothing and toy give away drew about 125 people and was covered by The Eastwick Press. The Abode is considering running another such event in December. Meanwhile, the Bike initiative has produced 30 bikes refurbished and given away and 20 bikes repaired. Repairs take place at a rate of about 4 or 5 bikes a week, matched by the same number of donations, so a steady pipeline is in place. The Abode has provided a large barn for storage, which was cleared and readied by a crew of Marc's nephews. Aside from the bikes themselves, the program has yielded good "brand awareness" and spurred other towns' interest in collaborating with New Lebanon. The business plan it is based on could become a template for other towns.

Steve and Bob then reported on the work of the solar subcommittee. They have reached out to 7 vendors and interviewed 2 so far. In general, the vendors offer a joint marketing program with the town, providing marketing materials and the incentive to the town of \$100 for each residence which signs up for its services. The vendor connects residents with a solar farm that provides a 10% discount on their electricity bill. The subcommittee will present their choice of a vendor to the Town Board next week. After the Board approves, the campaign will still need the subsequent approval of NYSERDA and DEC. If implemented, this measure could earn as much as 10 action points.

Bruce reported that the Columbia County Board of Supervisors has voted and is officially a member of the Climate Smart Communities. This will provide the town with new possibilities for county-wide collaboration.

Regarding new business, Steve brought up the issue of meeting attendance. There is no town-wide policy on the minimum number of meetings a committee member must attend in order to maintain membership, yet when a quorum is not present, no business can be conducted. The Task Force has had two meetings when the necessary number of members — 6—was not present. It was determined that Steve should ask Tistrya for guidance in this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on January 6 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Poreba

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