

Climate Smart Communities Task Force  
March 3, 2021 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  
Deborah Gordon  
Peg Munvez  
Elizabeth Poreba  
Sarah Steadman  
Cathy Wilkerson

Jill Henck Clean Energy Coordinator  
Marc Anthonisen advisor  
Jessie Hughes and Waqar Akhtar, students at Cornell Institute for Public  
Affairs and consultants to the CSC

Not present:

Adelia Moore

Steve Powers began the meeting at 7:03PM .

After approval of the minutes, Steve welcomed Cornell University graduate students Jessie Hughes and Waqar Akhtar, who will work with Marc and Steve this school term, and Town Board member and new CSC Member Deborah Gordon. Because Marsha Kessler has resigned, a vacancy notice asking for one new member has been posted.

He announced that New Lebanon, having been awarded 130 of the 120 points needed, has been awarded Bronze status, though a formal press release is yet to come. In order to gain Silver certification, the rejected items, worth ten points, must be upgraded. Adelia and Peg were able to upgrade the CSC page on the town website in time to get that action item approved toward Bronze. The Task Force then discussed action items that are already underway for Silver certification.

- Interior Lighting Upgrades = Steve had presided over the installation in the Town Hall this afternoon.
- NYSTRETCH program - Steve and Jill attended a webinar on this program, which is a building code change requiring 11% more efficient than the existing code requires. The additional expense — about \$1100 for a single family residence — is quickly gained back in lower heating costs. Deborah suggested the program be presented to the Zoning Rewrite Committee rather than to the Town Board at first. It was decided that Cissy, who also attended the webinar, be consulted and further information be sought before a decision is made. Participation in this program results in points as well as a \$5000 grant.
- Community Solarization - 24 people attended the Feb 16 meeting and news of it was in the paper. Ampion will mail cards announcing the next events March 16 and April 22. So far, 5 people

have signed up. The school is interested in signing up. The 10 sign ups needed for money to come to the town must live within the town's jurisdiction.

- Open space inventory - Steve attended a webinar on this action, which also includes a grant with points. The Task Force approved a request to the Town Board that the Task Force work with the CAC to apply for this grant by working on an open space inventory. Bruce pointed out that one such inventory was done in 2014 and is available on the town website. Jill said she would look to see if this were recent enough.
- Community Green House Gas inventory - in progress
- Clean Energy Upgrades for the Town Hall - in progress
- EV Charging Station - Bruce reported that the land owner has agreed and the easement is almost finished for a space to install an electric charging station.
- Repair Cafe - Adelia and Sarah are working on this. Bruce will send them information from a contact he knows at Zero Waste Columbia County
- Riparian Buffers - Trees for Tribes has been approved. 500 trees will be planted along the stream between the High School and the Town Hall in the spring and 500 in the fall
- Source water protection - Steve Winkler is conducting a survey and testing wells. Deborah pointed out that the water from Lebanon Springs is contaminated.
- Climate Change Education and Engagement - the subcommittee is meeting March 10
- Annual Progress Report - Marc is completing this. It will be entitled, "The Road to Silver."

Additional announcements:

- Ampion has agreed to buy 250 reusable shopping bags that will have the Ampion Logo on one side and the town's and the task force's on the other.
- 39 bikes have been repaired and will be ready for distribution in May
- Ideas are needed for an Earth Day presentation to accompany the Community Solar session on April 22.

Finally, Jessie and Waqar briefly introduced themselves and described their goals for the Climate Vulnerability Study. They both stated that they wanted to understand the priorities of town residents, because an exploration of the town's vulnerabilities to climate change is also an avenue for exploring its new opportunities. They will meet with Steve once a week.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Poreba

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