

Climate Smart Communities Task Force  
April 7, 2021 Minutes  
via video teleconference

Present

Steve Powers CSC Chair, CAC Rep

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

Bob Gilson CAC Rep

Deborah Gordon

Adelia Moore

Peg Munves

Elizabeth Poreba

Cathy Wilkerson

Marc Anthonisen advisor

Jessie Hughes and Waqar Akhtar, students at Cornell Institute for Public  
Affairs and consultants to the CSC

Absent

Jill Henck Clean Energy Coordinator

Sarah Steadman

Josh Young

After approval of the minutes at 7:06, Steve proceeded with an update from the  
Chair.

- Jenna has resigned and a vacancy notice has been posted.
- Steve has reached out to journalists in order to obtain broader coverage of the town's achievement of Bronze status.
- Steve, Marc and Bruce attended a CAC Roundtable March 30. Their presentation was very well received.
- Steve is working with Marcie Robertson to finalize the \$5000 grant from NYSERDA. The grant is the result of the Town Board's approval of Clean Energy Communities action items.
- Steve approached the Town Board about NYSTRETCH but received a tepid response. Some of the regulations requiring increased energy savings in new construction, however, may be included in the upcoming state budget.
- The March 16 Ampion information session was not a success, with only two new attendees, neither of whom qualified for the program. He urged members to encourage their friends to attend the next session on April 22.
- He presented a list of the ten Silver actions in progress
  - o Community Green House Gas inventory

- o Interior Lighting Upgrades
- o Clean Energy Upgrades
- o Alternative Fuel Infrastructure
- o Repair Cafe
- o Riparian Buffers
- o Source water protection
- o Solarize Campaign
- o Climate Change Education & Engagement
- o Annual progress report

Jessie and Waqar then presented an overview of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment they are doing for the town as part of their course in consulting at Cornell. Their focus question is, “What are the key climate hazards which can impact critical assets in the community?”

They have completed a review of the literature and compiled a list of the community’s major hazards (rain, heat, drought, snow, invasives, hurricanes) and vulnerable areas (agriculture, water, telecommunications, transportation, health, ecosystems, energy). Their goal is to help the town prioritize future risks and to create a presentation that will increase risk awareness.

They are now moving on to data collection in the form of interviews and focus groups.

A protracted discussion ensued about who should be invited to these focus groups. All agreed on the necessity of getting a wide range of opinions, even from residents who may not feel that climate change is occurring. It was ultimately decided that Jessie and Waqar should consult Tistrya as a first step in getting the names of people who would represent a cross section of the population.

Peg reported that holes for the Trees for Tribs in Shatford Park will be dug on May 27, with the plants arriving the next day. She is not yet sure about how many volunteers will be able to work at the same time, given COVID restrictions, but they plan to begin outreach for volunteers by setting up a table outside the Farmers’ Market pick up location on Thursdays, if Josh agrees.

Adelia spoke about the Education and Outreach Subcommittee’s plans to attract more people to the April 22 Ampion presentation by combining it with a gardening discussion moderated by Cathy. Ampion has agreed to purchase 250 tote bags with the company’s and the town’s logos on them.

The Subcommittee is also working to keep up with new posts on the CSC Facebook page. Bruce pointed out that sharing posts from the page is a good way to increase readership.

Marc said 30-40 bikes will be ready for spring distribution. Once the bikes have reflectors, Marc plans to post a Bike of the Week give-away on the CSC Facebook page.

Liz said the Free Store rack by the post office has attracted unwanted and unsightly donations, but Tistrya is laminating a sign asking that donations be brought to the Town Hall and not left at the rack.

Bruce, Tistrya and Steve are members of the CC CSC and attending the first County CSC meeting on April 29.

Adelia said that she and Sarah will meet on April 19 with people from nearby towns who are also interested in setting up a Repair Café. Marc suggested that a liability waiver like the one used by the Bike Shop might be helpful. Bruce said he would share the names to local skilled people who might be interested in helping out.

Members agreed to hold the next meeting, weather permitting, in Shatford Park at 6:30pm on May 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.  
Elizabeth Poreba