

Climate Smart Communities Task Force
May 5, 2021 Minutes
via video teleconference

Present

Steve Powers CSC Chair, CAC Rep

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

Kristine Cotton

Bob Gilson, CAC Rep

Deborah Gordon

Adelia Moore

Peg Munves

Elizabeth Poreba

Sarah Steadman

Cathy Wilkerson

Josh Young

Marc Anthonisen advisor

Jessie Hughes and Waqar Akhtar Cornell graduate interns

Tara Donodio Clean Energy Coordinator (during Jill's maternity leave)

Steve began the meeting at 6:36PM. After approval of the minutes, he thanked members who had sent letters to the Zoning Board regarding a proposed RV storage facility at the intersection of Routes 20 and 22. He and many others spoke at last night's meeting. The Zoning Board will vote on the proposed variance to allow the plan at their next meeting.

Steve then reported on a variety of items:

- Two metal signs have been presented to New Lebanon to commemorate its achievement of Bronze certification, location to be discussed.
- The Facebook group is going well, with so many posts that Peg has volunteered to take over stewardship. This must be approved by the Town Board.
- The Task Force has applied for its first \$5000 grant resulting from achieving four action items in the CEC program and is close to getting another grant. Tara offered to help in the completion of these actions.
- Another informational meeting about Community Solar was held on April 22, mc'd by Adelia and concluding with a presentation on native plants by Cathy. This session resulted in enough sign-ups to get to the required 10 customers. Now that Ampion has implemented an easier billing plan that does not include giving bank information, the Task Force needs to get to work getting more sign-ups. Steve will print flyers to give out at the Farmers' Market once it starts in June.
- Steve has contacted The Big Green Box that sells boxes to be placed in the post office, the high school and the town hall for the collection of batteries. The boxes are shipped back to the company which then recycles the batteries. This plan awaits Town Board approval.
- Steve is also inquiring about the possibility of collecting electronics to be brought to Greenport for recycling. Kris said she knows a company that offers to pick these items up. She will give the information to Steve.

•A group of volunteers helped to clean up the 20' by 20' area needed for the EV charging station. The power lines should be laid this week, and the station should be operational by the end of May. The CSC has been asked to take over monitoring the station and issuing a quarterly report on its condition. Bruce offered to do this.

The subcommittees then reported:

Trees for Tribes: Peg and Adelia reported that they are working hard to rally volunteers for three 3-hour shifts a day from May 28 through June 4. All volunteers will be sent an instructional video and will be offered further training on site.

Education and Outreach: Adelia urged members to join, like and share the Facebook page. Reusable bags with the town's, the CSC's, and Ampion's logos will be given out at the Farmers' Market.

The subcommittee is beginning to discuss sponsoring a large community event, perhaps around the issue of clean water.

Repair Café: Sarah and Adelia met with other local members of Repair Cafés. They are also reaching out to handy people willing to volunteer their time. Deb and Bruce offered to recommend some people.

Sarah said that they are thinking of holding a repair café at the end of August, perhaps at the Pavilion, perhaps on a Music in the Park Day, combining it with Bike and Free Store distribution.

Bike Repair: Marc said 14 bikes have been placed this spring and 22 more are available. 13 bikes have been donated. He has found someone willing to manage the program once he leaves.

Free Store: Sarah reported that the rack has seen much activity. People are no longer dumping donations there but bringing them to Town Hall. They are in particular need of men's work clothing and children's clothes. Liz said donations in those two categories had just arrived, in such good condition that she posted a notice about them on Facebook.

Annual Report: Marc has finished it, all 78 pages, and will make it available next week. This will garner points for the town as well as provide guidance to other towns wanting certification.

Columbia County CSC: Bruce, Tistrya and Steve attended the first meeting. The group has found funding for a paid coordinator and is generally energetic, though so large they will break into subcommittees.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Jessie and Waqar have interviewed a diverse range of residents recommended by Tistrya and are finishing the research phase of their report this week. They will then analyze their results and submit their final report in mid May.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.

Next meeting: June 2, 6:30pm at the Pavilion.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Poreba

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