

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2021 via Zoom, 6:30 PM

Present: Marc Anthonisen, Kris Cottom, Bob Gilson, Adelia Moore, Peg Munves, Liz Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson
Perspective new member Frieda Pearce
David Farren
Nina Keller
Absent: Deb Gordon, Sarah Steadman, Josh Young

The meeting was called at 6:30 pm. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Chair Update: – Steve Powers:

The task force has purchased recycling bins for the September 5 Community Picnic. Bottles and cans will be collected, and a compost bin will be attempted.

The second \$5000 NYSERDA grant was received, making a total of \$10,000.

32 residents have signed up for Ampion, earning the town \$3200.

All money so far will go toward solar panels for the Town Hall.

Brian Buzby of Ampion has assured Steve that all new Ampion customers will now have net billing. Additional residents who sign up will continue to earn the town \$100, though the program has been discontinued for new towns participating. Brian will make a presentation about Community Solar to the Library Board on September 9.

215 pounds of batteries have been kept out of the waste stream and sent to be recycled thanks to the Big Green Box program. The library now also has a box and the indoor farmers' market is getting one. At the current rate of collection, the program will cost about \$1,100 a year.

Electronics recycling on September 18 will also cost money, at 35 cents a pound for screens. It is not clear if the Task Force can accept and/or solicit monetary contributions. Steve will check with Tistrya.

The Action: Recycling in Town Buildings has been approved by the town board. This will earn the town 3 points toward Silver.

The EV charging station has not yet been installed.

Public hearings on the Comprehensive Plan are to be held this week.

Questions were raised about Jim Yienger's New Lebanon Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, given at the last meeting. It is not clear why New Lebanon was found to burn more wood than surrounding areas and why the report seemed to recommend burning wood rather than installing electric heat pumps. Also, more data on emissions from the Speedway are needed.

The connection with Cornell will continue through Rebecca Brenner, Marc's advisor, who will try to supply students for projects in the fall semester or for consulting in the spring. One or two students might evaluate the water options for the LVPA this fall.

Other Business:

Trees for Tribs: Peg reported that very few trees have been lost. There will be some minor replanting. Mulching has begun. The committee is planning a report to the Town Board.

Education and Outreach: Facebook is keeping up well. Adelia is looking into adding Instagram to our online presence. Josh has said that the Task Force can post flyers on the wall of the Farmers' Market store until he gets a bulletin board.

Composting: Cathy, Frieda and Bruce volunteered to participate with Liz in regular collection of coffee grounds at local restaurants for the Community Garden.

Repair Café: 5 towns are now sponsoring the October 23 event. New Lebanon, Canaan, East Nassau, Austerlitz, and Chatham. A representative from the tool library in Hudson will attend. Marc pointed out that 2 such events in a year would earn points for Columbia County as well as for the towns participating.

Bike Program: The program is looking for long term storage for 50 bikes. There may be grants for this. The program is doing well and is worth funding.

The Free Store will have a winter clothing give-away event some time in the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 6 at 6:30. A speaker from Cornell Cooperative Extension for Greene/Columbia Counties will present on PE7: Climate Smart Reliance Planning, a potential project for 2022.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Poreba