

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting

November 3, 2021 Via Zoom

Present: Marc Anthonisen, Kristine Cottom, Adelia Moore, Peg Munves, Frieda Pearce, Liz Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Sarah Steadman, Cathy Wilkerson

Absent: Bob Gilson, John Trainor, Josh Young

Jill Falchi-Henck. Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Members of the public: Matthew Pellegrino

The meeting was called at 6:30 pm. Steve called for an approval of the minutes. They were approved as submitted.

Chair Update: – Steve Powers:

The **Climate Smart Resiliency** Planning application has been submitted to Cornell Cooperative Extension for Columbia-Greene Counties

Repair Café- was a great success

We now have close to 50 signups in New Lebanon for **Ampion** and potentially 60 in the near future. The solar subcommittee is being reformulated and anyone interested in joining should email Steve

The **Battery recycling program** now has boxes in 6 locations and has recycled 300 pounds of batteries. Battery Recycling will likely count for CSC points under “waste reduction education campaign.”

A final tabulation showed that the **electronics collection** on town clean-up day yielded 9,159 pounds of electronic equipment recycled.

The **EV Charging station** is almost done, waiting for a contractor to set up the account. A press release will be issued when it goes on line.

The **Comprehensive Plan to be** approved by the Town Board calls for "Complete Streets", which is a potential CSC action. This includes biking/walking related actions.

A Cornell student continues to work on the **LVPA water tower project**.

The **recreational vehicle storage** proposal was sent back to the applicants for more clarification by the Planning Board.

Two CSC **grant applications** have been submitted: one is for bike storage and another is a Cornell Public Issue Network Grant, which would provide \$30,000 over three years to support climate activities.

Other Business:

Coffee grounds composting is now taking place at O'Maddies and Blueberry Hill. Bruce, Cathy, and Liz are doing the collecting. Marc volunteered to act as back up collector.

David reported that the new saplings for **Trees for Tribs** will be mulched and a plan about their location will be presented to Town Board in late winter.

Adelia said that **Social Media/Education Subcommittee** was in the process of reviewing its Facebook presence. Members reported that the Farmers' Market had provided a good venue for disseminating information about solar power and climate change. She hopes the committee will plan a large community event around an issue such as plastic in order to expand CSC outreach. Cathy suggested that the destination of the town's garbage and recycling would be a good issue to research. It was agreed the goal should be for people to learn what they could be doing in daily lives to help the environment.

Adelia said that the **Repair Café** was well attended. 10 of the 30 fixers ("Repair Coaches") present were from New Lebanon, others from 10 towns as far away as Hudson and Brooklyn. All together, it was a very positive event, with a steady flow of customers. Small pop up repairs in the indoor farmers' market over the winter are being considered. There will definitely be another Repair Café in the spring.

The event produced \$200 in donations, a mailing list of people interested in future events, and an outline of the procedures for having such events that will make the future ones easier.

Marc reported that 120 **bikes** have been refurbished or repaired to date. All bikes will now be kept in Tistrya's barn. The month has seen a steady flow in and out, but most fixes now will be in anticipation of next spring.

Sarah and Liz concurred that the **Free Store** needs more volunteers and more publicity. Liz said she would submit a post for the town and CSC Facebook groups and hang up a sign in the library. Sarah said she would print up posters. Frieda offered to volunteer.

Bruce recalled that the **Columbia County CSC** is getting close to hiring a coordinator and is launching a county-wide solarization campaign.

It was agreed that the **next meeting** be combined with a holiday party and take place at M&M, provided there is outdoor space available.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23

Next meeting: **Wednesday, Dec 1, at 6:30 at M & Ms.**

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Poreba