

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting

February 2, 2022 Via Zoom

Present: Kristine Cottom, Bob Gilson, Deborah Gordon, Adelia Moore, Peg Munves, Frieda Pearce, Liz Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

Absent: Sarah Steadman, Josh Young

Advisor: Marc Anthonisen

The meeting was called at 6:30 pm.

With the correction of an erroneous date for the February meeting, the minutes were approved.

Chair Update: – Steve Powers:

Climate Smart Resiliency planning is starting up, and Steve and Marc will meet with town officials this week.

NYSERDA approved the scoping document for **Heat Pump** campaign on January 11.

Still about 50 signups in New Lebanon for **Ampion**. Members of the Social Media/ Education subcommittee are making appeals to local businesses.

The **Battery recycling program** has boxes in 6 locations and has recycled 300 pounds of batteries. Drop offs seem to increase whenever the program is mentioned on Facebook.

The **EV Charging station** is up and running on Tilden Road. Cars have been spotted there. Donny will keep it clear of snow.

The CSC has received its **assignments** originating from the **Town's Comprehensive Plan** this year. The plan calls for the Task Force to update the **Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan**, taking into consideration the 2021 Climate Vulnerability Report

1. advise the town on the **Complete Streets program**. This would require high level, regional planning. Marc and Frieda pointed

out, however, there are rural communities making progress on this front

2. develop a plan for **alternative methods of transportation and routes to promote multi-modal transportation** about the town, with a focus on the old railroad bed. Bruce noted that he is working on adding pieces to the Corkscrew Rail Trail. Since permission from land owners is often an issue, this directive from the Town may provide clarification. Aside from the rail trail, members did not see how this request could be turned into actions. Steve said he would provide information about relevant action items.
3. develop a strategy to encourage the placement of **bicycle racks**. It was agreed that is feasible, and could earn points toward Silver.

The **LVPA water tower project** is in process. The LVPA wants underground tanks. The fire station is to be moved to Mill Road.

The Heat Pump Campaign was approved by the Town Board. Tara will attend the next meeting to provide information in order to conduct outreach. We already have two of the five residential installations necessary for a \$5000 grant. Frieda pointed out we will need a list of contractors who will install these pumps, and Deb wondered if we could help with the rebate process, which unfortunately must be accomplished by the installer.

Planning for the **Green Vendors Fair** will be held off until spring.

Other Business:

Marc reported **benchmarking** updates of government buildings are being performed and will be posted on the town website. This will gain us points for advance reporting.

Marc and Steve met with David Harrison, chief of Emergency Operations for the County, who is eager to work with the town on **Hazard**

Mitigation. There will be a meeting of the 14 towns around this issue in the County in May.

Marc reported that two **Cornell projects** are beginning:

1. . Marc and Steve will meet with an undergraduate Climate Communications class, which will help the Task Force expand its message and reach a younger audience.
2. Rebecca Brenner’s Consulting course will study the kinds of green jobs soon to be available in this region and the kinds of training necessary for them. Marc noted that a recent New York State study indicated that there will be 10 green jobs created for every one lost in the coming green transition. Cathy said this might be very helpful for the many people who have lost confidence in themselves, and it will keep young people in the community.

Liz reported that coffee composting is proceeding as usual. There was some discussion of expanding the composting program, collecting vegetable scraps and perhaps providing compost for the Abode in its new location. Other possibilities include composting meat and bones, or leaves and branches off roadways.

Peg said that **Trees for Tribs** will undergo some “re-triggering” in the spring.

Adelia said the **Social Media/Education subcommittee** is continuing to work with neighbors and local businesses about signing up with Ampion. She reminded members to “Like” and “Share” the Climate Smart Communities Facebook page.

Adelia made two proposals, both of which passed:

1. The Climate Smart Community Task Force will sponsor an **Earth Day Clean Up Event** on Saturday, April 23.
2. A small, “pop-up” **Repair Café** will take place in the Farmers’ Market, on an experimental basis, on a Saturday, as soon as it can be scheduled.

Marc reported bike repair was “quiet.” Liz said the **Free Store** benefitted from Tegan taking many bulky toys into Berkshire Thrift, providing more room for the many clothing donations.

Bruce said the **County CSC** has now approved its own solar providers. The town will get credit for residents who sign up with the county. Planning has begun for a county-wide Climate Carnival on July 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28

Next meeting: **Wednesday, March 2, at 6:30 via Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Poreba