

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting  
April 6, 2022 Town Hall & Google Meet

Present: Kristine Cottom, Bob Gilson, Deborah Gordon, Adelia Moore, Liz Poreba, Steve Powers, Cathy Wilkerson

Via Google Meet: Peg Munves, Frieda Pearce, Bruce Shenker, Marc Anthonisen  
Tara Danadio, CDRPC

Absent: Sarah Steadman, Josh Young

The meeting was called at 6:30 pm.

### **March minutes approved**

#### **Chair Update – Steve**

The library is hosting the CSC webinar on **heat pumps** Saturday, April 10. Steve encouraged all members to participate and invite friends.

The proposed **solar panels on the Town Hall** will be one of the items listed on a survey for residents to choose from among the disposition of American Rescue Act (ARPA) funds. Voting is open until the end of May.

Tistrya has sent letters to the Governor and state legislators to support the bill calling for a **moratorium of cryptocurrency mining**.

Yet another box of **batteries** is ready for mailing, bringing the total to 350 pounds of batteries saved from the landfill.

Among the tasks asked of the Taskforce by the Comprehensive Plan is the investigation of **bike racks**. To that end, Steve, Liz, Bruce and Mary Young had met and decided on possible bike rack locations: the library, both post offices, both malls, the park, the ball field. Steve determined that he would not bring this proposal to the Town Board until he had permission from the owners of those locations to install the racks.

Cathy then described a meeting she and Steve had with two members of the Darrow faculty who are planning a school-wide **composting program** that includes meat and dairy. Because the proposed composter, which costs about \$30,000, can take 1500 pounds of food scraps, Darrow is interested in collaborating with the town. Kris raised the question of pesticide contamination and pathogens. Though the high temperatures (at least 160 degrees) should get rid of pathogens, pesticides remain a problem, which must be balanced against the greater problem of methane created by food scraps in landfills.

Cathy reported that plans for the **roadside cleanup event on April 23** are going smoothly. Routes for clean up have been chosen and plans have been made for providing vests, bags, and gloves. An hour of cleanup will be followed by refreshments and debriefing. Cathy has distributed posters for it around town. Liz volunteered to notify local newspapers about the event.

Steve asked for a motion asking the Town Board to support the **NY/NJ Watershed Protection Act, HR 4677, which calls for coordination and funding of government organizations to support Hudson watershed restoration. The Taskforce voted unanimously to support this motion.**

Steve reported that the cost for **capping the landfill** now stands at \$2 million. Senator Daphne Jordan has responded to requests for funding by sending a letter. Representative Delgado's staff has contacted the Governor's office about this. It needs to be a line item in the state Environmental Protection Fund budget.

**Cornell projects:**

Four Masters in Public Administration Cornell students are scoping potential green jobs and developing a curriculum for local high school and community college students.

Students from Cornell's undergraduate program are working on a climate communications initiative geared to the younger demographic.

**Coffee ground collection:**

Cathy has approached Stewart's, which is also interested in having coffee grounds collected. Cathy will coordinate this.

**Trees for Tribs:**

Peg reported that the trees are budding and the group is awaiting a master plan. for the park. There has been positive feedback.

**Water:**

Peg reported that the DEC has retested some wells last week for PFAs and associated compounds. Results are not yet in.

**Social Media/ Education Subcommittee update:**

Adelia urged all members to feel free to submit Facebook posts to Peg. Frieda has volunteered to create a poster about plastic pollution.

**Repair café:**

Adelia reported that a second RC at Fisher's Store in Laura Austin's Interior Design was successful. She hopes to create lamp repair and hand sewing workshops where people learn to do their own repairs, combined with Repair Cafes. These might take place in the library.

The next pop-up RC. will take place in Laura Austin's on April 30 from 12 to 3.

There are also events planned in Chatham in May and Austerlitz in June, as well as the Climate Carnival in July. There is a need for additional fixers.

**Bike Repairs:**

Moi and Larry are currently working on repairs for three families.

**Free Store:**

Liz asked for information about places that could use a large donation of adult diapers recently received. The Women's Club will transport blankets from the Free Store to the Columbia-Greene Humane Society.

**Climate Carnival, July 16:**

Bruce reported that planning is going smoothly.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Next meeting, May 4 at 6:30 in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Poreba