

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2022 Via Zoom

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

Members of the public, Matthew Pellegrino

Tara Donadio, Capital District Regional Planning Commission

Absent: Deborah Gordon, Sarah Steadman

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:

Steve invited members to review and comment on the New York State Climate Action Council's scoping document.

The Climate Smart Resiliency Planning application has been submitted

We now have close to 50 signups in New Lebanon for Ampion and potentially, 60. 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.

The EV Charging station is up and running. A press release will be issued soon..

The Comprehensive Plan approved by the Town Board calls for the CSC to work on "Complete Streets", which is a 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 not voted down by the Planning Board yet.

Two grant applications have been submitted: and it looks like we won't get either.

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.

Peg reported that the new saplings for Trees for Tribes will be mulched and a plan about their location will be presented to Town Board in Spring.

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 a pop up Repair Café in New Lebanon was being planned as well as Repair Cafes in other neighboring towns.

Marc reported that 120 bikes have been furbished 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 has hired a coordinator and is launching a county-wide solarization campaign. The Climate Carnival will be held on July 16 at CC Fair Grounds. Adelia and Bruce will be co-leading the organizing for a Repair Café at the Carnival.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm

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

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Poreba