

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting  
May 6, 2022 Shatford Park, New Lebanon

Present: Bob Gilson, Deborah Gordon, Liz Poreba, Steve Powers, Cathy Wilkerson, Marc Anthonisen, Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling  
Absent: Sarah Steadman, Adelia Moore, Kristine Cottom, Peg Munves, Frieda Pearce, Bruce Shenker  
Members of the public: Sharon Powers, Mrs Anthonisen  
The meeting was called at 6:30 pm.

Members of the CSC welcomed Cornell students studying for Masters in Public Administration: Kate Boardman, Guanqi Su, James Bond & Hubo Wang with their advisor Rebecca Brenner and teaching assistant Aziza Moore.

The students proceeded to give a presentation, "Planting a Better Future," in which they suggested priorities in fulfilling CSC Action Item #8, green jobs training. After sharing their research and methodology, the students recommended: 1) Formation of a Strategic Planning Committee of local decision makers 2) Development of a Sustainable Business Workshop 3) Integration into local career fairs, such as the Climate Carnival on July 16.

After the presentation, discussion ensued that brought up the need for union buy-in, the problem of the stigma of vocational training, and the need to connect with the High School and Questar.

As the CSC thanked the students, their advisor Rebecca Brenner said she looked forward to further collaboration between her students and the town.

After approval of the minutes, Steve proceeded with the Chair Update:

Two successful heat pump webinars have been hosted by the library, with the result that the town will probably meet its quota of 5 sign ups, thereby obtaining a \$5000 grant as well as earning 200 points toward a CEC grant.

The town will now piggyback on the Columbia County Community Solar program and continue to seek Community Solar sign ups.

The battery recycling program has yielded about 350 pounds of batteries from 6 locations with an additional 100 pounds in Steve's garage.

Electronics recycling day is June 25, excluding televisions.

In compliance with the Comprehensive Plan expectations for CSC, Steve, Liz, Bruce and Mary Young have formed a committee to study the placement of bike racks.

The roadside cleanup event on April 23, organized by Bob and Cathy, attracted 21 people and should become an annual event.

The Town Board is considering and will probably approve NY Stretch. Communities that adopt NYStretch-2020 code may become eligible for grant funding and designation as a Clean Energy Community.

Funds are still being sought for the town landfill capping.

In two Zoom sessions.. Cornell undergraduate students studying Communications presented their findings about ways for New Lebanon's CSC to reach a younger demographic Their recommendations and presentations are available; Steve will send the links.

#### Other business

Composting coffee continues, with the addition of Stewart's. Cathy is examining ways to form a non-profit to obtain grants for collection of the town's food scraps.

Water testing of about 20 wells near the landfill has been done.

Trees for Tribes is waiting for the Park Plan to be finalized.

The Social Media/Education subcommittee is likely to engage in some of the projects suggested by the Cornell students. The Repair Café has hosted 3 small pop-up events resulting in about 30 repairs. The next one is on May 14 from 10 to 2.

Bike repairs has refurbished or repaired 120 dates to date. They are fulfilling requests from 3 families. There is a need for a larger storage space because there are currently about 40 bikes in stock. They are considering a Facebook give-away.

The Free Store (Resource Recovery Center) continues to fill up with donations as the rack empties.

The County CSC will reach Bronze certification by July and is looking toward new projects.

The CSC will have a table at the Climate Carnival on July 16.

Next meeting date – June 1

Adjournment was at 8PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Poreba