

CSC Minutes. July 6, 2022 6:30 Shatford Park

Present: Kristine Cottom, Winfried Fuchsofen, Bob Gilson, Deb Gordon, Liz Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

Consultant: Marc Anthonisen via videoconference

Absent: Adelia Moore, Frieda Pearce, Sarah Steadman

The meeting was called at 6:35 pm.

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

The Heat Pump campaign is ongoing. Another webinar, with Rycor, is scheduled July 21 6:30 with the library. We need two more to meet our quota of 5 signups in order to receive a NYSERDA grant.

The Community solar campaign is on hold

Survey results regarding ARPA Funds are in. “Support for local businesses” was #1, followed by, in order of interest, “water issues”, “health and wellness”, community center, rail trail, housing . Another meeting will be held on July 26, at 6 PM to discuss where to go next and how to narrow down these broad categories.

The battery recycling program has so far recycled 450 pounds of batteries collected from 6 locations in New Lebanon.

The electronics recycling day, June 25, did not yield as much as last year. There will be another electronics collection on Town Cleanup day, September 24. On that date, TV’s will be accepted. Full and half empty paint cans will be accepted, provided the paint has been combined with Kitty Litter and dried. Empty paint cans will not be accepted.

The Town Board’s approval of the NY Stretch program garnered the town 1200 points in the Clean Energy Communities program. New Lebanon is now the CEC leader in the region. Grants for energy projects will be available as points increase.

The Town Hall energy audit is complete, but the resulting report needs to be upgraded for the state’s consideration. Winfried volunteered to make the report more comprehensible and comprehensive. He said some necessary points may be missing from the report as it is currently written, and this will require some further work on his part.

Steve asked a vote on a proposal: to ask town board to approve use of NYSERDA grant money to implement the improvements in town hall that were suggested in the audit report and purchase three heat pumps. The proposal was unanimously approved.

In compliance with the Comprehensive Plan the Town Board has asked the CSC Taskforce to consider alternative transportation. We have proposed 4 locations for bike racks and are awaiting Town Board approval for the expenditure.

Also in line with the Taskforce’s mandate to investigate transportation, Bruce is working with Tistrya to obtain permissions from private land owners to extend access to the Rail trail.

A discussion ensued regarding what else might be involved in this request to investigate transportation. The possibility of providing some kind of public car or van service was raised. This could possibly be a business opportunity for someone who could fulfill the need for transportation to nearby towns. Perhaps there are grants available to make such a service affordable? Bruce will look into this. Bob volunteered

to look into a van service. Liz said she would inquire about services provided by the Department of Aging
Delgado's office has not yet responded to requests regarding the landfill.

The Cornell Green Jobs report has arrived. Steve will send copies to interested parties.
In keeping with the Cornell Communications Class's findings about ways to reach out to a younger demographic, Steve put forth Adelia's request about the possibility of proposing an environment-centered art project with high school students or senior citizens or both working together. It was agreed that any curriculum proposals presented to the school must conform to professional standards. Therefore, it was decided that, although such a program might be suitable for senior citizens, we would need to be clearer about aims and procedures of any such program before approaching the school.
Cathy said she would talk to Brit to determine if the high school has a Community Service program.

Other updates.

Composting: Cathy has been placing buckets in front of Country Squire and behind the Farmers' Market. She proposed that the Task Force formally endorse a food scrap collection program in coordination with the county's. The proposal was unanimously approved

Trees for Tribes & Water :85 volunteer hours have been spent tending the trees, watering, and plucking off caterpillars. There will be a meeting in mid-August to discuss moving trees and planting those not already planted.

Repair Cafe: 21 people have already signed up for repairs at the Climate Carnival. There will be another Repair Cafe in East Nassau in September.

Bike repairs and Free Store (Resource Recovery Center) Moy, Marc and Larry will all be at the Climate Carnival. Rather than give out bikes indiscriminately, they will take orders for bikes so that each person gets a bike they can use. They have currently about 12 orders to fill. They want to emphasize that bikes can be repaired as well as donated.

The Columbia County CSC has applied for Bronze status.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Next meeting date – August 3

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Poreba