**Climate Smart Communities Meeting**

Minutes

August 3, 2022

New Lebanon Town Hall, 6:30 PM

Present: Chris Cottom, Bob Gilson, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Sarah Steadman, Cathy Wilkerson. Guest: Tara Donadio

The meeting was called at 6:37 pm. Steve called for an approval of the minutes. Caty Wilkerson moved to approve the minutes. Chris Cottom seconded. They were approved as submitted.

* **Heat Pump Campaign**: Steve Powers said that the CSC has met its goal of 5 sign-ups for heat pumps, which allows us to apply for a $5,000 grant from NYSERDA. It will also help us reach 4,000 points, which should bring us an additional $20,000. We have $5,000 left over from previous NYSERDA grants, as well as money from Ampion sign-ups. We expect to get $5,000 from New York Stretch, as well as an additional $10,000 for reaching 3,000 points. It will cost $80,000 to install heat pumps for the entire Town Hall, which will earn us another 700 points. When we hit 5,000 points we will get an additional $70,000 from NYSERDA, which would additionally allow us to do an insulation upgrade. *We are the first CSC in the Capital District to reach 4,000 points!*
* **Electric Vehicle Campaign**: The CSC needs 5 NEW Lebanon residents to purchase electric vehicles to qualify. When the goal is met, it will get us 200 points, and another $5,000 grant in NYSERDA’s

Clean Energy Communities program. A vote was held and all agreed it was worthwhile and should be sent to the Town Board for approval.

* **Community Solar:** We are piggy backing on the county’s program; however, at the moment, the two providers they are working with don’t have capacity for new customers. Ampion has a new facility coming online in December. Steve is researching if Ampion will have capacity to work with us.
* **Battery Recycling**: Steve has another 50 pounds of batteries to send off, bringing to total to 500 pounds recycled to date.
* **Rail Trail**: Tistrya has suggested using some of the ARPA funds to research and write grants to extend the rail trail to encourage walking and bicycle use downtown. Bruce said that if we could get permissions, there are 3 – 4 miles of trail that could be opened now.
* **Scenic Hudson**: Steve made a resolution to support Scenic Hudson’s Land Act. Cathy moved to support the resolution. Chris seconded. The resolution was approved.
* **New York State Climate Action Scoping Plan**: Steve made a resolution to support the Plan. Cathy moved to support the resolution. Chris seconded. The resolution was approved.
* **Landfill**: Steve reported that there are no new developments with the landfill.
* **Climate Carnival**: Bruce Shenker said that the Climate Carnival was a huge success. He said that there were 26 fixers at the Repair Café, and that 120 repairs made. Also, the Free Store was a huge success that helped to attract local people to the event.
* **Composting**: Cathy Wilkerson said that the County is investing in a digester which will allow meat as well as vegetable scraps to be composted. Tara Donadio said that NYSERDA was working to help communities come up with composting plans. Cathy, Bruce, and Liz continue to pick up coffee grounds, and 2 buckets of food scraps at the permanent Farmer’s Market weekly.
* **Trees for Tribs**: The trees are thriving. They still have to figure out where to put unplanted trees. Erosion of the stream bank is accelerating.
* **Wastewater Treatment Study**: There will be an informational meeting on August 12.
* **Education**: Adelia is away. The committee will meet next week.
* **Repair Café**: The next Repair Café will be in East Nassau on September 17.
* **Bike Repair**: Steve reported that 15 bikes were repaired at the Climate Carnival, and that they received requests for an additional 30 bikes.
* **Shaker Swamp**: Bruce reported that they are working on a feasibility study to build a trail in the Shaker Swamp. They hope to get a DEC grant to purchase additional land.
* **County CSC**: ?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting will be on August 4.

Respectfully submitted: Robert Gilson

**CSC Update to the Town Board Aug 9, 2022**

**Heat Pump Campaign**: we were informed last week by NYSERDA that we met our goal of 5 residents purchasing heat pumps and thus qualify for the $5000 grant. In addition, the points we received for the Heat Pump campaign bumped us up to 4100 in NYSERDA’s Clean Energy Communities which entitles the town to another $20,000 grant for energy related projects. (See flyer) New Lebanon is a Regional Leader in the Capitol District. This brings us to a total of $40000 that we have qualified for this year plus about $8000 on hand from community solar. NYSERDA has assigned a program manager and we will work with her to see how we can get the cost of the entire town hall covered for Heat Pumps. The lowest estimate we got was over $81,000 after rebates. The cost is high because they have to do it at prevailing wage.

**Electric Vehicle Campaign**: The CSC has approved the next campaign. We need 5 New Lebanon residents to purchase electric vehicles to qualify. When the goal is met, it will get us 200 points in NYSERDA’s CEC program, and another $5,000 grant in NYSERDA’s. So, we are asking the Town Board to approve the CSC participating in a Community Campaign for Electric Vehicles.

**Rail Trail**: based on the Town Board’s request at the last meeting that the CSC work with the Corkscrew Rail trail and Laberge to research and write grants to extend the rail trail to encourage walking and bicycle use in downtown, we met with Jerrine and Nicole from Laberge on Monday. We will continue to work together to devise a plan to present to the Board.

**Repair Café:** the next multi-town one will be on Sept 17 in East Nassau

**Bike program:** 15 bikes were repaired at the Climate Carnival, and the team received requests for an additional 30 bikes which are being processed now.

**The Composting Program**: continues with Cathy, Liz and Bruce picking up coffee grinds and food scraps at restaurants in town and taking them to the Chatham Collection center. We may have a Cornell Grad School class working on a project that we will report on next month.

**Farmer’s Market:** we are at the outdoor market every Sunday and we encourage everyone to stop by.

CSC advisor Marc Anthonisen has taken a teaching position at Ithaca College. We wish him the best of luck and thank him again for his service to the Town and CSC.