**Climate Smart Communities Task Force Minutes Oct 5, 2022**

New Lebanon Town Hall

Present: Deb Gordon, Steve Powers, Cathy Wilkerson, Adelia Moore, Kristine Cottom

Absent: Frieda Pearce, Liz Poreba, Bob Gilson, Winfried Fuchsofen, Bruce Shenker

The meeting was called at 6:32pm. After approval of the minutes, Chair Steve Powers provided an update:

In the last month the CSC received confirmation from NYSERDA that we were approved for the $20,000 grant for energy upgrades which on top of our previous grant will give us $30,000 to use towards heat pumps for Town Hall. NYSERDA also clarified that if we convert minimum 51% of Town Hall to heat pumps we will be entitled to 700 points in the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program. The bid requests have gone out for the 5 heat pumps to meet the 51% threshold with a deadline of Oct 14. After the Town chooses a heat pump installer, the contract needs to be approved by NYSERDA. Hopefully we can get this all approved and installed by the end of November to save the town money on oil purchases.

After the heat pumps are installed, we can apply for the 700 points from the CEC program but still need 200 points from the Town’s Community Solar project with Ampion that was delayed due to bird nesting issues. Ampion has agreed to put us on a priority waitlist for all of their projects but we will need additional agreements signed which I emailed earlier today. Steve will ask that the board approve Tistrya signing the docs to give us more opportunities to get the Town’s electricity usage on an Ampion Community Solar project.

Once we get the 700 and 200 additional points in the CEC program we will hit 5000 points which entitles us to a $70,000 grant from NYSERDA for energy upgrades at Town Hall.

In compliance with the Town’s Comprehensive Plan, four additional bike racks were received, and one is outside Town Hall and the others will be installed — two in Shatford Park, and one in Midtown Mall after Donnie finds suitable anchors.

Cathy Wilkerson and Kristine Cottom began attending Sustainable Food Management classes sponsored by the Department of Environmental Conservation. They will learn how to create a feasible method of collecting and composting food scraps from all town residents. Composting has already begun in a small way with volunteers collecting coffee grounds from local restaurants and providing baskets for food scraps outside the Farmers’ Market.

CSC members Adelia Moore and Bruce Shenker helped with another Repair Café in East Nassau in September. There will be a “Do it yourself” Repair Café tomorrow Oct 12 at the New Lebanon library from 6-8pm where residents can bring items to be fixed and stay to learn how to fix them in the future.

As part of the Town Clean Up Day last month, the electronics recycling took in 3080 lbs including 76 tvs, 100 lbs of batteries from the town battery recycling program. To date, the battery recycling program has recycled 550 lbs of batteries. These and all electronics will all be broken down by a NYS certified recycler instead of going into a landfill.

The CSC is looking for 2 new motivated members. Because there are a such a variety of programs that we work on, everyone on the Task Force is able to find an area that interests them. If anyone is interested in joining our efforts, please contact me or send a request to Marcie.

November 2 is next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8pm