Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes  Aug 2, 2023 Town Hall, New Lebanon

Attendees: Kris Cottom, Cathy Wilkerson, Frieda Pearce, Bruce Shenker, Winfried Fuchshofsen, Adelia Moore, Steve Powers

Chair's Report

- 50 solar panels installed on town hall: 23kWh, which amounts to 89% of electricity needs for Town Hall and Garage

-EV - no Update from Ford. Five last year; two this year - need five. Includes used. Doesn't need to be bought in NL, just be a NL resident. Discussion of other dealers to check with.

-Battery recycling: 101 lbs turned in, including school contest.

- Comp plan item for CSC- Rail trail qualifies as alternative transportation under ARPA - potential 10K, but need to check with residents, a couple of pretty hard No's.

- Bike racks installed by Donnie at the ballfield, Town Hall. Another will be placed at the pavilion and behind Berkshire Bank.

- Walkable Downtown - no progress

- Cornell grad student (Michelle Parks) - 10 weeks up soon. Next Silver deadline 1/5/24 - Paid $1500 for 10 weeks, need $2500 for 20 weeks. Note: If we and the town board vote this, it is CEC $, not taxpayers' money.

           - Note on Silver - 353 potential points - (40% of the effort is doing,  60% filing. Note, Silver status gives NL better chances for state grants. NL remains the leader in the county.

           - Motion made by Kris to authorize payment of $2500 to Michelle Parks to work toward Silver deadline of 1/5/24. Seconded by Bruce. Passed.

- EV Level 3 charger – Marc and his advisor's son completed a study and advises not to do it now; many reasons including changing standards that town would have to fix.

- Working on a grant for LVPA water tank of $125,000 to include tank and installation, as well as backup generator and other supplies granted

Reminder: This need was based on research by Cornell Climate Vulnerability Study during drought.

- Plastic bags - 89 lbs - Long way from 500, but still good. Discussion re other sources, such as plastic that farms use to suppress weeds.

- Music in the Park 8/6 - Because of CREED event, we will not be able to attend the lst Music in the Park. Adelia, Winfried, Frieda, Liz, Julie and Steve all volunteered to staff the event table.

-Shaker Swamp Walk 8/13 -email Abbie Shoobs if you wnat to attend: AFS1091@gmail.com}

Other reports:

- Composting (Cathy W): We need education for home composting, county digester and what we've done so far. We should have someone at every community event. Goal: Keep food scraps out of the landfill. Make it normal rather than the exception. Doing well - K Shack, Farmers Market, Maverick's. Kris and Cathy will work on proposal for points.

- CAC Water study 20-22 corridor showed  50% have coliform bacteria and 20% e coli. Wastewater feasibility grant has been submitted. Town water testing is about to begin. CAC is submitting a plan to water to NYRWA (NY Rural Water Association who is helping us submit to DEC. Getting DEC approval will enable us to go for grants to continue water testing. Town funds will not go far. It is clearly a major issue with potable water issues happening on the business corridor. We are working closely with NYSDOH to come up with how to present the town with facts and solutions.  CSC will get points.

- CAC Trees for Tribs - good shape; new signage in two locations, bridge and men's restroom.

Repair Cafe - Adelia reported modestly attended small event in Kinderhook as part of green fair.  Next event 9/23 in East Nassau at Hoags Corner Fire House on Route 66. 2024 Calendar in progress.

- Bike Program - Discussion of whether and how to make available to other groups, e.g. Berkshire Rainbow group. More PR e.g. article in Columbia Paper but avoid volunteering to make deliveries.

- Women's group will hold Trash for treasures event on Friday 9/8 12-1 at Immaculate Conception Church.

- Outreach and Education Committee - Most issues already discussed.

         - Plastics: Adelia met with Chris at Maverick's to discuss working on decreasing use of single use plastic. He is enthusiastic about the idea, always with a mind to cost for customers. Will begin to promote idea of refillable containers: charge for small won’t matter how much coffee or tea if bring own container. Discussed possiblity of investing in reusable platters, coolers, coffee maker etc.

         - Heat pump campaign: NYSERDA  if ten new customers, 1oK grant.

We will do another webinar with RYCOR.

         - Grow the Valley was missing hot links for CSC and RC - Adelia will send feedback to the new editor.