Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2023 Town Hall, New Lebanon

Present: Kristine Cottom, Julie Fraad, Bob Gilson,, Frieda Pearce, Elizabeth Poreba,

Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

Absent:Deb Gordon, Winfried Fuchshofen, Adelia Moore,

The meeting was called to order at 6:30

After approval of the minutes, Steve provided updates:

— Solar panels for Town Hall-were installed and are generating clean power as of August 24

— No updates on the EV Campaign.-Plug in hybrids purchased in the last year can be included in the five town purchasers needed for points.

— To date, 821 pounds of batteries have been collected for recycling from boxes in 6 locations. Bob will collect the boxes before Sept. 16 so that they may be accepted on Town Clean Up Day.

The school collection program will start up again.

— Volunteers who are able to lift large items are needed for Clean-Up Day Bruce suggested that in future years, Clean Up Day not be scheduled on a Jewish holiday.

— Bruce and Steve will meet with Tistrya regarding the 2022/3 CSC expectations for the Comp Plan, regarding the development of a plan for alternative methods of transportation and routes to promote multi-modal transportation throughout Town, with a focus on the old railroad bed.———Since Sept 17 -24 is climate week, a special post to promote bike riding will be on the CSC Facebook page.

— A Bike rack has been installed behind the bank. There is one more rack to be installed.

—There has been no progress on the Walkable Downtown Plan, because the Town is still waiting to hear from the engineers. Julie noted that a recent incident in the pavilion bathroom at Shatford Park may affect discussions of the plan in regard to the proposed path near the High School . She volunteered to make inquiries from the police about this incident .

— Cornell student Michelle Parks has been helping Steve with the paperwork for the Road to Silver . 15 of the actions submitted for the Bronze must be resubmitted. Bruce said he would help with photos and information gathering.

—The $125,000 water tank grant,will also provide for a backup generator for LVPA and $6000 towards another tank

— 135 lbs of plastic film have been collected so far. Steve plans to ask for an extension in order to reach the goal of 500 pounds. Cathy is going to inquire what Woodlife farm does with its plastic.

— Steve and Tistrya are going to speak about benchmarking at a webinar on “Locally Sourced: Capital Region Climate Policy “ 9am-12pm on September 8.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGvYQEIFsQ4>. S

— Steve has been approached by another solar power company asking for help in signing up customers. After some discussion about the extremely erratic billing pattern caused by a lack of communication between NYSEG and Ampion, it was resolved to hold off on another community solar campaign.

— Steve suggested another webinar, hosted by the library, to promote heat pumps, geothermal heating, and energy audits. He noted that another $10,000 grant would be available to the town if 10 residents sign up for HVAC systems.

Chris reported that she spoke to about 6 or 7 people at the Music in the Park event on Aug 20, Most questions were about CSC. Overall, the event had a good turnout.

Frieda said she and Judith have been gathering recyclable items for a Trash for Treasures event with the Lebanon Valley Woman’s Club on September 8. She is going to bring flyers about the Repair Café and about Climate Smart Communities activities.

Cathy reported on several composting efforts.

•She said she will attend a workshop on composting and jumping worms this month. •She is going to weigh the 3 bucket of coffee and 3 buckets of egg shells that she brings to Chatham every week •She asked Liz to write up a flyer promoting “Host a Bucket,” for people who do not want to bother composting themselves. Three families must join to put their kitchen scraps in one bucket, which volunteers will collect every week and bring to Chatham. •She will provide a write up of the current composting program for points toward Silver.

Via Steve, Peg sent an update from the CAC

• Water testing continues, 31 homes tested and 25 new requests for testing.. •The Drinking Water Source Protection Plan will be presented to the Town Board on September 12. •Conversations with the Mahican Nation concerning the Springs have begun, and a Mahican spokesperson will be invited to a CAC meeting in October. • The trees are thriving. Doug Godley devoted several hours every weekend to them. •CAC members have put in 96 hours of volunteering to date.

The Social Media/Education subcommittee had met this morning. Bob and Liz are ready to get started on posting on Instagram, once the Town has an Instagram page.

Bruce has been distributing flyers for the East Nassau Repair Café. Members took flyers to distribute..

200 bikes have been refurbished or repaired to date; volunteers are now working on filling requests for bikes from many families. Anyone needing a bike should contact Larry.

Liz reported that the Free Store is going to be moved to the Community Center. It will be open only when there is a volunteer present to monitor it. Alissa Ross and her husband Merrill have volunteered to build the shelving, using donated wood. Alissa continues to do most of the work of keeping the Free Store in order.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Next meeting date – Oct 4

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Poreba