

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes.
Town Hall. December 6, 2023

Present: Kristine Cottom, Julie Fraad, Bob Gilson, Deb Gordon, Elizabeth Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

Absent: Winfried Fuchshofen, Adelia Moore, Frieda Pearce

Guests: Craig Skerkis, Elizabeth Kroboth

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm

A quorum not being present at the November meeting, the minutes were not approved, The first order of business was approval of documents to be submitted to the Town Board. After some discussion of each, the following documents were approved:

Annual Progress Report

motion to approve: Kris; seconded: Bob. approved unanimously

Climate Action Plan for Government Operations

motion to approve: Bruce; seconded: Cathy. approved unanimously

Organic Management Plan

motion to approve: Cathy seconded: Bob. approved unanimously

Filing these reports contributes toward the 300 points needed for Silver certification, making a total of about 350 points that New Lebanon will submit at the end of the month.

Apropos of this application, Steve reported that New Lebanon is rare for being a small town that is filing for Silver; most are larger towns that have paid staff to attend to the paperwork done by volunteers in New Lebanon.

Updates:

The Comprehensive Plan's expectation that "the CSC develop a plan for alternative methods of transportation and routes to promote multi-modal transportation throughout Town, with a focus on the old railroad bed" has been put on hold because of the delay of getting landowners' cooperation.

The Walkable Downtown application for a grant has been submitted for DOT review.

The Water Tank grant for LVPA has been approved and is still in progress.

Bruce recently brought 12 bags of plastic to recycling. The bags weighed 49 lbs; 1000lbs must be collected in a year to win a bench. Now the plastic can be brought more than once a month, after calling ahead, and a photograph must be taken of each drop.

A request for an additional 6 heat pumps for Town Hall has been submitted to Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley Building Decarbonization Grant Program.

Cathy said that collections of coffee grounds and egg shells from Maverick's for the County's digester weigh in at about 40 pounds a week. She is working on arranging for a bucket for kitchen scraps to be at the New Lebanon recycling site on Wednesdays and Saturdays. She is also looking for ways to obtain additional volunteers to expand operations.

Peg reported via Steve that 70 wells have been tested, and an educational program about the importance of water testing is being planned for February at the library.

Frieda reported to Social Media/Education subcommittee that she is making an educational presentation about energy efficient appliances at the Library in January.

Bruce reported that a New Lebanon Repair Cafe is slated for next November. The main focus of the local Repair Cafés is on the September, 2024 Climate Carnival.

Bike repairs have refurbished or repaired 200 bikes and given away 46 bikes this year

Liz reported that the Free Store is moving to the new Community Center. Alissa and Merrill Ross are installing shelving. Volunteers will be convened to bring what is left of the current items now in Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 and was followed by a Holiday Party at M&M's.
Next meeting date – Jan 3