

Climate Smart Communities Task Force, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting at Town Hall
January 3, 2024

Present: CSC members: Kris Cottom, Julie Fraad, Bob Gilson, Adelia Moore, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 P.M. The minutes were approved.

EV Campaign: Five people in New Lebanon have now bought EV's. We get 200 points and a grant for \$5,000 from NYSERDA.

Battery Recycling: We now have collected and recycled over 1,000 pounds of used batteries.

Rail Trail extension: The Rail Trail is on hold as there are several landowners who will not grant access to their properties.

Walkable Downtown: The application has to be submitted to the State by January 9. The State has said that the engineers underestimated the cost. As a result, the project will have to be scaled back with a final projected cost of \$2.5 million.

Road to Silver: The application for Silver has to be submitted to NYSERDA by Friday. Steve is submitting 372 points (300 points are needed.) Steve thinks it's looking good. When we achieve Silver, we will get 1400 points from the CEC program – we currently have 6600 points. When we get to 7000 points we will get \$175,000. Funding for the program will be running out at the end of 2025. If we can get to 9000 points, we will get an additional \$250,000 for energy upgrades on town buildings.

Water Tank: The water tank project for the LVPA has passed 2 approval processes with the State and is currently undergoing a third approval process. The grant was awarded by Didi Barrett.

Plastic Recycling: About 290 pounds of plastic have been recycled to date. This year's deadline is in 2 months. It seems unlikely that we will get a bench.

Heat Pumps: We are still waiting to hear if we will be getting funding from Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley to add 6 additional heat pumps to the Town Hall.

Energy Efficient Appliances: Frieda will be giving a presentation on energy efficient appliances over Zoom on January 6 at 1:30 pm.

Composting: The CSC will now be able to have a bucket for food scraps, including meat, at the New Lebanon Transfer Station on Wednesdays & Saturdays.

CAC: The CAC will present a talk on water testing at the NL Public Library on February 10 at 1:00 pm. CAC will do a presentation on Invasives with Regenerate NY at the Library on March 16 at 10:00 am.

Education: Adelia proposed a resolution to be presented to the Town Board and sent to the New York State Assembly to pass the Strong Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act:

RESOLUTION NO: **[INSERT # HERE]**

Support for the New York State Assembly and Senate to Pass a Strong Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (A.5322-A/S.4246-A) and Expand the State's Bottle Bill (A.6353/S.237-B)

WHEREAS, packaging makes up approximately 40 percent of the waste in New York State, and

WHEREAS, managing packaging waste costs New York taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, some packaging is not recyclable and reusable and refillable packaging systems are not readily available, and

WHEREAS, plastic causes serious pollution including litter and use of toxic chemicals, and

WHEREAS, companies that produce packaging should help bear the costs of packaging waste, not just taxpayers and

WHEREAS, enacting the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, as drafted in the New York Assembly A.5322-A and the New York Senate S.4246-A, would reduce waste, increase recycling rates, create jobs,

reduce toxicity in products, provide millions of dollars in savings for local governments and taxpayers, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act should work in tandem with and supplement New York State's Returnable Container Act, and

WHEREAS, New York's Returnable Container Act should be modernized to reflect an expanded market of beverages, and the deposit on beverage containers should be increased to 10 cents.

BE IT RESOLVED, that [INSERT JURISDICTION] urges the New York State Legislature to pass and Governor Kathy Hochul to sign into law a strong and effective Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act A5322-A/S4246-A, and an expanded and modernized Bottle Bill A.6353/S.237-B, and

RESOLVED, further, That [INSERT JURISDICTION] shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York Assembly Speaker and New York State Senate Majority Leader, the local state assemblymember, the local state senator, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Bike Repair:

Free Store: The Free Store has been moved to the Community Center. Hours are posted on the Town's website.

Meeting hours: Steve proposed that we change the CSC's meeting ours to 5:00 pm. A motion was made and approved to change the hours.

The next CSC meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2024 at 5:00 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson