

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes

March 6 , 2024, 5PM New Lebanon Town Hall

Attendance: Kristine Cottom, Julie Fraad, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

Guest- Michelle Hoffman of the New Lebanon Library

After approval of the minutes, Steve began with updates.

EV Campaign: having reached the goal of 5 residents purchasing EV's, the paperwork was submitted this week.

Battery recycling program 942 pounds have been collected from the boxes in 6 locations

Walkable downtown. The final application was submitted on Jan 9

Road to Silver Update. Though some points were knocked off, enough were left to secure the town's Silver Certification, but the DEC wants to wait to announce this on Earth Day.

CEC status- The town earned 6600 points with the garage's energy audit.

\$175,000 NYSERDA grant: The grant will be available as the result of the above accomplishments when we get credited for getting to Silver. The town will have only three months to decide how to allocate this grant after submitting it, and once the grant is awarded, it must be spent within 5 years. Some ideas are refurbishing the bathroom in the park, lights in Town Hall, and upgrading the garage, including heat pumps. The money must go toward energy related work on town buildings.

Solar panel IRA credit The town will receive a check from the federal government for installing solar panels on Town Hall once the paperwork is filed.

Water Tank grant for LVPA This is still in progress and is now on the third stage.

Plastic recycling We have now collected 305 pounds of plastic.

Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley Building Decarbonization Grant Program declined the town's grant request. Only 12 grants were awarded throughout the region.

Hazard Mitigation plan update; Members were urged to complete the survey. Survey results will be combined with the Cornell report. The most vulnerable areas of town are the three trailer parks that are on a floodplain. Marc's contact, Rebecca, at Cornell, has offered to have her students research how other towns in the area have handled this.

CSC size reduction to 10 members was approved by the Town Board.

Earth Day cleanup will be on April 20. Bob will coordinate it. Frieda will make flyers advertising it.

Bike Tune Up Day is scheduled for May 18

New Lebanon's Local Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan is now online. Members were asked to read and comment on it.

https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/66495/NewLebanon_CARP_Draft.pdf?1709581358

Committee Reports:

Composting: Cathy said use of the compost bin in the recycling area is gradually increasing. Mavericks would like to have us collect their kitchen scraps, but we do not have enough volunteers to do any more than we are currently doing. Basically, "If you build it, it will spread. She will bring in some resultant "soil amendment" from the county composter at the next meeting.

Trees for Tribs & Water update- Bruce said that the Drinking Water Source Protection Plan is currently on hold. Within the week, the committee will do a walkthrough among the trees they planted. The Shaker Swamp volunteers will be meeting with Didi Barrett. They are considering opening a short trail behind Roaring Twenties. They have obtained permission from the Shaker Museum to clear a trail that connects to Darrow.

Repair Café- The future dates are April 13 in Austerlitz, June in East Nassau, one in July at the Climate Carnival, and a large one in New Lebanon in November.

Bike repairs- Questions have arisen about giving repaired bikes to residents of other towns, since the town has paid for parts. 200 bikes have been refurbished or repaired to date; 47 bikes given out last year

Free Store Alissa Ross reports that as many as 50 people have been visiting the Free Store in a day.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50.

Next meeting Wednesday April 3 at 5PM.