

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024, 5PM New Lebanon Town Hall- rescheduled meeting due to weather

Attendance: Kristine Cottom, Julie Fraad, Bob Gilson, Adelia Moore, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson
After approval of the minutes, Steve began with updates.

EV Charger: The motion was made and passed for Steve to propose to the Town Board that the CSC cover the cost of the Town's electric vehicle charger for 3 years, beginning in 2023.

Battery recycling program: there was a discussion about recycling the batteries of residents from other towns, since there is a charge of \$75 for every 40-pound box sent. Adelia said she would discuss the idea of helping to pay this amount with members of the Repair Café.

New Lebanon has been awarded Silver Certification. Steve announced this at the last Town Board meeting. An article about the town's accomplishment will appear in next week's Columbia Paper.

CEC status- Since the town earned points with the garage's energy audit to reach a total of 7000 points, it will now receive a grant of \$175,000 from NYSERDA . The town will have only three months to decide how to allocate this grant. Some ideas-are, a battery back-up, more heat pumps and an electrical upgrade for Town Hall, solar panels on the town garage. and electrical electric tools for park maintenance. These purchases will entitle the Town to more points. 9000 points qualifies the Town for an additional \$250, 000 grant

Hazard Mitigation Plan 2 new Cornell students will be working on this plan for the Town in June. Two areas of potential flooding are the trailer parks and the creek in Shatford Park. Though wind was not a great concern among those who responded to an earlier survey, it was agreed that the recent high winds and accompanying power outages in the Town make falling trees , and the debris of many dead trees, a serious hazard. It was suggested that the Town reach out to NYSEG to discuss its concerns about this matter.

Solar panel IRS credit. Steve is looking into the possibility of the Town receiving tax credit for the purchase solar panels. -

Water Tank grant for LVPA- is in progress. Steve has made inquiries.

Plastic recycling- Julie noted that the size of items put in the collection carton is increasing. Perhaps a business or office are availing themselves of this service. More than 335 lbs have been collected thus far.

Earth Day cleanup- Bob, reconnoitering for likely areas, found hundreds of empty Bud Light cans. He contacted the Highway Department and the cans

were cleaned up. In fact, because this is the time of year when the highway crews do clean up, Bob suggested it might be better to have this clean-up event in the fall. As it is, he will drive around Friday to find likely locations. Mavericks will provide tea coffee, bagels, pastries, for volunteers, and vests, gloves, bags are all ready. Flyers have been distributed.

Composting Cathy. reported that residents are bringing about half a bucket of compost every Wednesday and Saturday. She has five buckets of soil amendment from the County composter, which she will give out on clean-up day.

Trees for Tribs are discussing the possibility of relocating some trees

The Austerlitz Repair Café- was “astoundingly successful.” Chris reported that, of 169 repair requests, only 20 were not successful.. Knife and tool sharpening and lamp repair were the most popular ticket items. Donations that day amounted to about \$300. PR for the upcoming, pop-up repair café at the library has been limited because space is limited.

Bike repairs 19 bikes have been requested and will be delivered in the next few weeks . A **Bike Tune Up Day** will occur on May 18 at Shatford Park in conjunction with pop -up Repair Café at the Library .

Landfill update: Steve reported that money for capping the landfill should be in the final State budget. There is still some dispute about money for maintaining the site, complicated because the land is privately owned. The Town may have to purchase the land in order to get funding to maintain it. It would be a good location for solar panels.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56.

Next meeting – May 1

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Poreba