

To: Claverack Climate Smart Committee
From: John Bradley, Coordinator, Claverack Climate smart Committee
Subject: Agenda for Feb 23 Climate Smart Task Force Meeting
Date: Feb 23,2021 6 - 7 PM

Agenda

1. Welcome to our 2nd Claverack Climate Smart Committee meeting.
 2. Bureaucracy : development of Mission Statement and formalization of Committee membership - on hold. Priority on longer term planning/envisioning provides framework for shorter term decision making;
 3. Review Update Report to Town Board on Feb 11 (Distributed to CSC on Feb 13);
 4. Discussion of Hydropower Project
 - o Review Slide Set from Current Hydro LLC - Imre
 - o Relationship to Town Building energy requirements;
 5. Green Building Standards for New Town Court Building?
 - o Renewable energy?
 - o Passive features?
 - o Aspirational Green Standards?
 6. Other and New business.
 - o Need for recruiting more volunteers
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Topic for Ongoing/Future discussion (if time permits):

- o Additional actions and projects;
- o Certification framework areas for Long Term:
 - i. PE 3 Decrease Energy Use - more actions to be explored
 - ii. PE 5 CLimate Smart Materials Management
 - iii. PE 6 Climate Smart Land Use
- o Conservation - Claverack needs a Conservation Advisory Council (per CLC) to work side by side with the CSC. Several CSC Pledge Elements address issues of particular concern to the field of conservation, especially 'Climate Smart Land Use' and 'Resilience to Climate Change'. See 'Note on Conservation below.'
- o Comprehensive planning update

A Note on Conservation and Climate Smart:

Climate Smart program places a primary emphasis on reducing GHG emissions and nonrenewable energy use, and of course transitioning to net zero. The other side of the equation is the biosphere's capacity to process GHGs and maintain the balance necessary to support various forms of life. The deterioration of the plant's ecosystems (oceans, forests, soil, etc) has damaged the capability of the biosphere to function effectively and maintain that 'balance'. The protection and restoration of those ecosystems is equally important for restoring and maintaining a livable biosphere with temperatures amenable to the web of life on which all species depend. Conservation and ecology are fields with a primary focus on protecting and restoring our ecosystems. In short, reducing emissions, decreasing energy use,, and shifting to

renewable energy are immediate priorities; Protecting and restoring our ecosystems globally are equally essential for long term sustainability and survival. The conservation movement is a critical building block for this long term endeavor, and needs to be reflected in policy at all levels of society. As a Climate Smart town and committee, it behoves us to foster conservation either by working with a Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC) or undertaking conservation measures as part of our Climate Smart mandate.

Mtg Summary - Feb 23, 2021 Claverack Climate Smart Committee:

Attending: Bradley, Kiplinger, Proper; Excused: Cashen, Varga, Weninger

The status of the final steps of formalizing the Climate Smart Task Force was briefly discussed. Until we successfully recruit a few more volunteers to serve and broaden our scope of Climate Smart actions, there is no need for a more formalized structure. And with limited resources we need to focus on a few actions at a time to get us to Bronze certification level. Building up a track record of actions should help in recruitment, hopefully by the summer.

The status of the hydropower feasibility investigation was discussed. The site visit by Current Hydro LLC (Joel Herm, Principal and Roy Powers, hydrologist) and the discussion with the Town Board on Feb 22 were both very encouraging. John reported that both discussions generated many questions for further work. The still undefined nature of the building project and how hydro will fit in remains to be elaborated. The initiation of the Town Board's building planning process will be important for sizing the hydro project planning.

The Group discussed what kinds of recommendations we might want to make regarding the energy related design criteria for the new building. Should we recommend that the building be designed to net-zero standards and be reliant to the extent feasible on renewable energy? There was agreement that we should continue this discussion, and check the related Pledge Element actions (PE3 is 'Decrease Energy Use').

The group also discussed the role of conservation interests in Claverack and its importance to Climate Smart. The lack of a conservation organization in Claverack such as a Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) makes it difficult for the Climate smart committee to address actions under the Pledge Element # 6, Climate Smart Land Use. We agreed that we would look for opportunities to recruit more conservationists and work with the Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC). John mentioned that he serves on a CLC committee studying the Upper Taghkanic Headwaters. Many issues in those discussions such as watershed management, wildlife protection, and open space planning are relevant to Claverack whose Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2008 would benefit from an update. The Taconic Hills section of Claverack is considered part of the North East Regional Wildlife Corridor.

While addressing actions under multiple Pledge Elements is a longer term objective, it was agreed that we should focus on completing a limited number of actions (so-called low hanging fruit) so as to accumulate enough points for Bronze Certification. This is our immediate priority.