

Claverack Climate Smart April 27, 2021 - Agenda and Summary

Agenda for Tuesday, April 25 2021 Climate Smart Claverack Monthly Meeting

1. Welcome
2. Summary of April 27 Meeting (see below)
3. Projects Updates
 - a. Clean Energy Grant
 - b. Hydropower and New Town Building
 - c. Greenhouse Gas Inventory - We expect to have the report for our review
4. Communications and Publicity - Facebook and IMBY, more?
 - a. Please check out our Facebook page -
5. Stretch Building Codes (PE 6)
 - a. See links below and attached NYSERDA FAQ sheet on Stretch energy code
6. Discussion of other Climate Smart Actions
 - a. Solar -
 - b. Examples of other towns - Chatham, ANcram?
7. Other / new business

Summary Notes of April 27 Meeting - 5:30-6:30 PM on Zoom

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

Introductions - New member, Josh Nislich introduced himself, noting he recently moved to Philmont from Chatham. He works for a solar development company, and is particularly interested in working on renewable energy.

Project updates:

The Greenhouse Gas Inventory is nearing completion. The CDRPC's staff intern is loading utility bill information into the template for the report. This report will be more extensive than the benchmarking data currently collected.

Katy Cashen reported that the Claverack is receiving a \$5,000 grant as a result of fulfilling the requirements for the Clean Energy Program. We are requesting information from National Grid on the cost for LED streetlight conversion. A energy reducing project is a condition for receiving the grant. She also reported on federal American Rescue Plan funds the town expects to receive. Final details and the town's use of the funds are to be determined.

Hydropower and the New Town Building:

John reported that interest in the hydropower project remains high. Further analysis of its feasibility is awaiting more information from the town as to specs on the new building so as to size the required power output. Katy Cashen reported on the Town Board workshop at which a local architectural firm, Spacesmith LLC, gave a brief presentation with slides on how a planning process for the building project might roll out. The firm has experience with both repurposing and new construction and has worked on numerous public projects.

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John noted that Joel Herm from Current Hydro had attended the meeting and had shared information on funds available from NYSERDA that they had secured for another hydro project in Montgomery County.

Solar:

The committee's role in supporting the Town Board's discussion of Solar was briefly discussed. It was noted that some Climate Smart Committees are active in advising and implementing their town's approach concerning which Solar programs to participate in - Solarize, Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Claverack has not had discussion about the consumer side of Solar and has mostly been concerned with aspects of Planning Board approval and payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT).

Building Codes (Stretch) -

The 'Stretch' building code is the code that will come into effect automatically in two years. Adoption of the code before then will benefit the town with some grant funds and Climate Smart Certification points. It was reported that with the building boom, inspectors have a considerable backlog and now might not be a good time for this discussion. There are multiple issues with considering this action. John will continue to gather information on the issue.

Communications:

A discussion about the committee's need to communicate with the broader community and build a network of friends ensued, touching on use of Facebook, and mail. John commented that he thinks that we are still too small organizationally to be able to utilize conventional mail. As we grown it is important to plan how we reach out to the community, and consider looking for some funds as Richard had suggested.

Background on Discussion Topics for May 27

Stretch Building Codes:

Building codes are an important factor in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in a community. Every 3 years NYS revises the building codes to more toward NYS's reduce emissions goals. The Stretch code is the next evolution and will go into effect in two years. Here is some background information:

- <https://www.nyserra.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Energy-Code-Training/NYStretch-Energy-Code-2020>
- Stretch Code and Climate Smart - PE6 Action: NYStretch Energy Code
 - <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/161>

NYSEARDA's FAQ on Stretch code is attached

This is a complicated topic with many benefits for the community. I believe it is worth our investing time to understand it and engage in a broader discussion.