

Meeting Summary - Claverack Climate Smart Committee July 27, 2021:

Attending: John Bradley, Jeff Kiplinger, Josh Nislick, Imre Varga

Excused: Katy Cashen, Cherry Lewis, Richard Weninger

The Greenhouse Gas Inventory was discussed at length, addressing questions of the role of the Inventory in our climate action planning and the role of the committee's recommendations. It was recognized that the recommendations on opportunities for follow up are preliminary issues for more indepth eploration. How much detail would we include? Etc. It was agreed that the 'Opportunities to Reduce GHGs' section should outline key issues for each facility and a brief outline of the next steps for possible actions and the potential of those actions. The document can serve as an extension of the Road to Bronze Climate Action Plan that we presented on July 8. This GHG Inventory report will be a useful guide in discussiing next steps' over coming months . It should be useful be useful when planning for the new Town Hall starts.

The data in the Inventory is a valuable baseline on energy use for each of the buildings and allows us to estimate potential cost impacts of improvements. The following opportunities were mentioned in committee discussion.

Garage:

The group discussed several potential opportunities relating to the Garage Building and vehicle fleet, which together account for \$69,800 or 84% of town energy costs. Even without the fleet fuel, the Garage accounts for 80% of heating fuel and 60% of electricity costs (excluding streetlights). The CSC committee recommends that several steps be explored to reduce the Garage emissions and costs.

A first step would be to organize a tour of the facility with town officials. It was noted that our committee has several members with extensive facility management and energy efficiency experience.

Josh also outlined several opportunities relating to installing solar, either on the roof or ground. It was noted that several towns have taken this route.

Town Hall and Town Court

The opportunities relating to the new town hall were discussed. It was noted that this topic was elaborated in the report to the TB on July 8 in relation to the Certification Framework and the Path to Bronze. The lack of information on the town's plans relating to these two buildings is a problem for providing detail in this section of the Inventory because the full or partial consolidation of the town buildings into a new building will leaves much to be determined. However, the opportunity to build to a high level of energy efficiency, (hopefully netzero) means that even with more square footage the energy costs can be considerably lower. The opportunity to employ renewables, both solar and Hydro will significantly lower the cost.

The Committees presentation on Aug 12 was discussed. It was agreed that we should emphasize that we are a team that can provide a valuable service to the Town Board and we are willing to work closely with the Board, staff, and architect-project manager.

The group agreed to review and refine drafts and help prepare the presentation for the TB meeting on Aug 12.

Streetlight Conversion

The group briefly discussed the N-Grid proposal for 134 Street Lights' conversion to LED. Their proposal would cost the town considerably more than the \$3500 remaining from the Clean Energy Communities grant of \$5,000. After adjustments, the project would still cost the town over \$9k. Josh explained that with a 45% LED cost reduction from the current annual expenses of \$15,114 in 2019, the annual savings of \$6801 would translate into a less than 2 year payback. John mentioned that Katy Cashen had requested that we submit this analysis to the TB in a memo.

Communications topic was deferred to a next meeting.

Proposed Agenda for Climate Smart Meeting on July 27, 2021

1. Introductions
2. Discussion of Claverack Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for Government Operations -
 - see Draft Report attached; numbers do not foot so I hope to have a corrected version by Tuesday;
3. Communications:
 - Facebook - although Kathleen has left the committee to run for office, she continues to help out with our FB page. Check it out <https://www.facebook.com/climatesmartclaverack/>
 - Friends of Claverack Climate Smart - I am developing a Listserv of people who would like to be kept up to date on Climate Smart issues; If you have interested colleagues or friends, please give me their emails or forward the 'Updates'.
 - It would be great to find a volunteer to help out with our increasing complicated department communications - a good way to learn a lot and make an impactful contribution
4. Review of Climate Action Planning (CAP) and the 'Path to Bronze' report to Town Board on 7/8 - IF TIME.
5. Review of scheduled monthly meeting date. If we want to meet in person at the library, Tuesday is not viable as it closes at 3 PM; Is the last Wednesday of the month from 6-7 doable for all of us? Would the second to last week of the month work?