



CSC Meeting Summary - Oct 27, 2021

The Claverack Climate Smart Committee held its October meeting on Wednesday, Oct 27 from 5:30 to 7 PM at the Claverack Free Library,

Attendance: John Bradley, Katy Cashen, Julie Shevach, Tom Helling, Jeff Kiplinger, Vic Masters
Excused: Eric DeFeo, Tom Furgeson, Sarah Katan, Cherry Lewis, Josh Nislich, Brenda Shufelt, Dave Sutton, Imre Varga, Richard Weininger

The Summaries of the Sept and August meetings were briefly discussed. There were no corrections or additions so they will be posted as distributed. The summaries are posted on the Claverack Climate Smart Committee's page on the town website.

CSC Membership - John explained that a TB Board member requested a list of CSC participants. A list of the 14 current volunteers is being drawn up. Additional biographic information is needed and then will be sent to the TB.

John also commented that with the expansion of our volunteer corps, we need to establish more structure similar to other CSCs. We now have four loose workgroups (marketing, GHG inventory, Town Hall/Town Square, and the Solar Campaign). Other CSCs have a formal task force / committee with members appointed by the TB and additional volunteers participating in work groups. John is drafting a committee structure and will submit it in November to the TB along with the list of participants

Vic reported on the marketing work group which also includes Eric DeFeo and Sarah Katan. She showed two versions of a logo on the monitor and led the discussion Update on Webpage and Communications. The group liked the icons in the design and agreed that the term 'Sustainable Claverack' does not fit.

A draft of a mission statement was discussed at length. Some comments included:

- We need to fine tune the language for the conservative leanings of our population
- We need to align the content more to the key objectives in the NYS Climate Smart webpage:
 - "Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that supports local governments in leading their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the effects of climate change, and thrive in a green economy." (from the 2 page introduction at <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/about/>)
- The group liked the focus section. How to frame it so it makes sense to the TB? Can it be aligned more to the 'pledge' language?

Vic reported that a webpage domain for Climate Smart Claverack was taken out and will be developed.

John mentioned the issue of how to communicate with the community since the Town does not have a community newsletter like some Climate Smart communities have. He asked about a MailChimp list to replace his unwieldy google-groups list. Tom suggested

that contacting other environmental groups to reach out to their Claverack membership might be fruitful.

The report on Solar Campaign Scoping Document was deferred due to running out of time

Similarly, the discussion of the Town Hall and Town Square was deferred. John mentioned that the workgroup is trying to identify the various tasks that will be needed for the various components of the whole Town Square complex. Although the TB has not considered many aspects of the whole, we can help them by identifying what will need to be done if/when they decide to address the various components. For example, the DEC will require an environmental assessment for several different subprojects so there will be some efficiency in knowing what will be needed and then not having to repeat a study because something was omitted.

Katy mentioned that TB wants to move ahead with an engineering study ASAP.

John mentioned that we had not heard back from Kaja Kuhl after the site tour on Oct 13 but that he had an email with Gail and Chris (landscape architects). Once we get both of these proposals, the Town Square workgroup can discuss next steps and how to help the TB with their planning process

Bronze Certification - this discussion on documentation and submissions to NYSERDA was deferred.

Adjournment, drafted by JMB

Proposed Agenda:

1. Introductions and Greetings - 5:30-5:45
2. Summaries of Sept and August meetings
 - a. Comments, corrections requested
3. CSC Membership
 - . A TB Board member requested a list of CSC participants
It is time to be better organized now that our volunteer corps has expanded.
4. Update on Webpage and Communications
 - . Logo
 - . Webpage
 - . Outreach
5. Town Garage Tour on Friday 10/15
6. Report on Solar Campaign Scoping Document
7. Recommendations for Town Hall and Town Square
 1. Planning developments
 2. Landscape architects, overall planning process, project management
 3. Formalize work group and roles
 4. Present planning options in late November
8. Bronze Certification
Discussion of status and need for documentation and submission to NYSERD