

Claverack Climate Smart Committee and Task Force meeting Summary, Monday Feb14 at 6 PM on Zoom at the Library

Attendance: Katy Cashen (TF), Jeff Kiplinger (TF), George Duntz (TF), Tom Helling (TF), Julie Shevach, Sarah Katan (TF), Anya Bonnano, [A quorum of the Task Force was present]

Notified: Elizabeth Davis, Tom Furgeson (TF), Katy Flammia, Cherry Lewis, Victoria Masters, Dave Sutton, Imre Vargas, Richard Weininger, Marion Wiener, Thomas Paino

Summary of Meeting -

- 1) The Summary of the January 10 CSC Meeting was reviewed and there being no comments will be posted as distributed.
- 2) Appointment of the CSC Task Force - It was explained that the CSC Task Force and the Committee of volunteers meet jointly since there is substantial overlap of the volunteers. The Resolution passed in December specified certain responsibilities for the Task Force, most significantly any recommendation to the Town Board must be approved by the Task Force.
- 3) John briefly reviewed several highlights of the CSC's past year.
 - o He noted that at the Feb 2021 meeting there were 4 volunteers (Richard Weininger, Jeff Kiplinger, Kathleen Proper, and Imre Varga). At that meeting, the group initiated several projects that shaped the year's Climate Smart activities: the investigation of hydropower for the town hall, the decision to conduct an inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Town operations, and Climate Action Planning to attain Bronze Certification.
 - o In July, the CSC reported on the Climate Action planning and recommended the Path to Bronze Action Plan. The report recommended actions already completed with the Clean Energy Communities program and identified numerous opportunities for the future.
 - o In August, the CSC delivered an Executive Summary of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Town Operation, which recognized significant opportunities to reduce GHG emissions and save on energy costs by adopting renewable energy (solar) for the town garage and addressing issues in planning for the Town Hall.
 - o From analysis of the GHG Inventory information, the CSC made multiple recommendations for reducing emissions and savings on long term energy costs. One set of recommendations relate specifically to the planning, design and building of the new town hall. The design of a new building offers the single best opportunity to lock in energy and cost savings for the long term. A second set of

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recommendations addressed the town garage and the opportunity to integrate renewable energy (solar thermal and electric panels) in the building's systems. With the original equipment boilers reaching the end of their useful life and thus needing to be replaced, now is the time to at least conduct thorough planning so that the boilers can be replaced with a system incorporating renewable energy before the current system fails. The intent is to avoid an emergency decision which lock the town into equipment that is not optimal for the longer term.

- Discussion ensued over how to follow up on these two sets of CSC recommendations. While a primary role of the CSC committee is advisory to the town board, the committee has an implicit obligation to follow up on recommendations with additional information, research and support to move toward implementation. The CSC is committed to promoting all the Pledge Elements of the NYS Climate Smart program, including education and outreach, an important priority for all CSCs. Volunteers feel an obligation to educate the community about opportunities to reduce emissions and build resilience. When the CSC's recommendations are particularly relevant to the wellbeing of the community, many feel that persistent education and advocacy is appropriate. In the garage or town square cases with the import and complexity of these recommendation, volunteer expertise can be put to use in helping to clarify aspects of the projects and how to proceed. The certification requirement for actions to be completed is another reason for follow up.

4) Certification -

- The committee discussed the status of credit for actions completed for bronze certification. The town and CSC are committed to strive for certification, and credit for actions is only awarded after completion of the action. In most CSCs, many volunteers have useful organizational/business experience and skills and can provide useful support on follow up on recommendations. This is foundational principle of the CSC program - incentivize small towns to use volunteers to take climate action.
- In further discussion of the status of certification, John reported that we have not recorded any credits yet and need to make a systematic effort to this end. Tom and Julie offered to help in this endeavor, and also to help organize the data/documentation that needs to be submitted..

5) Solarize Campaign.

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- At the February Town Board meeting, a resolution to support the campaign was passed.. John reported that we are now waiting for the County to finalize the relationships with the vender to provide the support for outreach and enrollment. He noted that the advantage of bootstrapping on the County effort is that they do the extensive work for an RFP and vetting and selecting the vendors, but we now have to wait until the county systems are in place before we can launch.
- 6) Marketing/Media work group:
- Sarah briefly reported for the Marketing/Media work group. For the Webpage, they are working on a site map and website hierarchy. Now the need content. They are also working on a MailChimp list for outreach.
 - John reported that the County CSC is sponsoring a Climate Carnival in cooperation with the County Solid Waste Dept for July 16 at the County Fairgrounds. More information to follow.
 - John also reported that we are working with the Claverack Library and a local author , Nancy Casaldp, to organize an event around Water, Her book is 'When the World Runs Dry' and want to include the CLC's Upper Taghkanic Headwaters Planning Committee in the event. More info to come.
- 7) Meeting adjourned

Original Agenda:

- Meeting Summary from Jan 10, 2022
- Appointment of CSC Task Force
- Highlights of CSC in 2021 (first full year)
- Solarize Claverack
- Marketing-Media

Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82392496996?pwd=WWtZQ3NrdktSRG5QUkwwaUxaRmc2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 823 9249 6996 Passcode: climate, One tap mobile
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