

Claverack CSC Minutes for May 9, 2022 Approved on July 11,2022

Attendance: John Bradley*, Katy Cashen*, Elizabeth Davis, Katy Flammia, Tom Helling*, Sarah Katan*, Jeff Kiplinger*, Julile Shevach (* Task Force Member - a quorum was present but no action taken)

Notified: George Duntz*, Tom Ferguson*, Cherry Lewis, Victoria Masters, Dave Surtton, Imre Vargas, Richard Weininger, Marion Wiener, Thomas Paino,

The Claverack Climate Smart meeting opened at 7:05 PM on May 9 at the Library.

The Minutes of the April 11 meeting were accepted as distributed.

Julie reviewed the spreadsheet on documentation and certification for the Path to Bronze Plan. Elizabeth, Tom and John had met with Julie twice to to work on filling in the required documentation needed for several of the action items. Julie noted that the group has scheduled a meeting with Haley Balancoff, the CDRPC staff person for May 19 to review a list of questions about the submission requirements. Each of the items in the Climate Action plan needs to be reviewed and appropriate documentation located for submission. It was noted that working on documentation is a good way to learn the basic of how the climate smart program works and for many actions, it is a good way to get more involved with the town government.

Sarah presented the 'live' website - <https://www.climatesmartclaverack.com/> . She led a review and discussion of the various tabs. Many appreciative comments were made about all the work that went into it, the breadth of issues covered and the quality of the work. There was extensive discussion about the many areas that can be further developed and the potential for outreach and community education.

The website includes numerous opportunities for viewers/visitors to request more information, sign up for the distribution list, and to get involved with the CSC committee. A newsletter was discussed and it was suggested that we try to send out a newsletter on a monthly or bimonthly basis. It was also noted that almost all of the work on the website was done by Sarah and Vic. The team needs additional volunteers to help in several areas, especially the continued website development, writing, and social media.

The group also discussed the need to raise money to support outreach and education. So far, volunteers fronted the costs and we need to raise money to reimburse them and to cover the costs of planned activities. It was mentioned that Richard Weininger had offered to introduce us to Berkshire Taconic Foundation colleagues who can advise us on how to get organized for fundraising. The issue of how to manage donations or small grants was also mentioned and noted for future investigation. It was agreed that spreading the word about the website and publicizing the newsletter should be a priority.

The group also discussed the Grant programs John and others had been researching. Funding for multiple NYS grant programs was announced on May 3 by Gov. Hochul. Two programs, the CSC grants and the EPF-Park offer opportunities for Claverack. The Grant cycles announced May 3 have application submission due date of July 29. After discussion it was agreed that the town would be unable to meet the requirements for submitting a grant by July 29.

There was also discussion of what kind of planning process should be implemented once the town is ready to start planning. John briefly reviewed some of the suggestions that a Landscape Architecture and planning firm had suggested to him given the complexity of the Mellenville site. It was agreed that further analysis and discussion was needed on this issue before the Committee could make a recommendation to the TB. It was also noted that a preplanning outline for planning and developing the building and overall site would be an important first step. Katie Flammia suggested that a gant chart be constructed to help clarify how the interrelated pieces of planning should unfold. She offered to sketch out a gant chart given what we know about the site and ideas for its development.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30

Proposed Agenda - Revised:

- MInutes from April 11 (attached)
- Update on CSC Website-Vic and Sarah; <https://www.climatesmartclaverack.com/>
- Update on Climate Action Planning, documentation, and Bronze certification for - Julie and Tom
- Planning for Mellenville site and new town hall - discussion of draft - Please read. If we want to recommend this to the Town Board, a Task Force Quorum will be required.
- Grants
 - DEC EP- Park grant for Mellenville Public Space - Grant availability was announce on May 3 with Application due by July 29 for 2022 round, Claverack is running out of time -
 - Climate Smart Communities Grant Round #6 - \$12M available - due July 29 <https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC> Of possible interest to Claverack is a Comprehensive Plan update to include sustainability and resilience. (Jeff's email)
- June 5 Water Event with Library, Taghkanic CAC, and CSC on the creek banks at Taghkanic Fire Dept - Presentation on Global Water Issues by author Nancy Castaldo and brief presentation on the Taghkanic Headwaters Conservation Plan
- Zero Waste Letter - Public Comment on Columbia County MSW Plan
- Up dates from County CSC:
 - CC CSC will submit for Bronze in July
- Climate Carnival - <https://sites.google.com/columbiacountyny.com/emc/climate-carnival>
 - Repair Cafes - at Carnival; also, NE Towns have rolling Cafes;

- Free Store at Carnival - Also, NE Towns building network of free stores, invite others towns;
- County Garage on 23B to install Solar panels - 17 yr payback; ARP partial funding
- Other

We will be meeting in person and on Zoom for those who prefer

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 823 9249 6996

Passcode: climate