

Summary of Claverack Climate Smart Committee meeting, Nov 14 2022 -

The November Claverack Climate Smart met on Monday, Nov 14 at 6 PM at the Claverack Free Library Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 6 PM

Attendance: John Bradley, Tom Helling, Mark Menne, Brenda Schhufelt, Julie Shevach (a Task Force quorum was not present).

Notified: Katy Cashen, Elizabeth Davis, George Duntz, Tom Fergeson, Katy Flamia, Sarah Katan, Jeff Kiplinger, Victoria Masters, Imre Vargas

The minutes for the CSC meetings of October 8 were accepted as distributed.

Tom and Julie briefly reported on a meeting of the Certification and Climate Action Planning work group with Haley Balcanoff, the CPRPC representative who is providing technical assistance for these efforts. A key outcome of the meeting was for Tom to write a preliminary plan draft for the work group to elaborate. The GHG Inventory was also discussed, and the group agreed on the need for a volunteer to work with Haley to update the town's benchmarking. The next work group was for Wednesday, Nov 30 at 1 PM

The Media team's report from Vic and Sarah was relayed by John. The November Newsletter was delivered to 110 recipients on the CSC's Mail Chimp list. It was also announced to another 60+ residents on the Town Announcements list. A discussion ensued as to how to increase engaging people who receive announcements. One suggestion was to have regular topical news items with highlighted topics of interest. Two such 'themes' are the new town hall and local agricultural developments. Posting short articles of interest in IMBY with links to the newsletter was also suggested.

The Climate Adaptation and Resilience Planning (CARP) was also discussed. The Cornell Coop Extension staff will provide the technical support to this county-wide effort. An organizational meeting will be held in January for all participating town CSCs (16 plus the County). It is hoped that this CARP planning can be combined with a comprehensive planning update, as is being done by several other communities, including Philmont.

John gave a brief report on the status of a new town hall and the RFP for demolition of the old town garage/court building. One bid for about \$170K, which included asbestos removal, was received. The TB decided to defer action since the town still has not identified it's needs and there is no plan for what to do. The town will explore several alternative sites.

A work group to explore possible futures for the Mellenville site met on Thursday Nov 10 . The meeting included Troy Weldy and Rebecca Walker from the CLC, Mike Tucker from the County Economic Development Corporation, Katy Cashen, Brenda and John. Brenda emphasized the relevance of the effort to attain historical preservation status and reported that Philmont has agreed to include the town site with its paper mill ruins in their historical preservation proposal. Brenda will keep the committee updated on these efforts. Several grant opportunities were also

discussed, including Restore NY and NYS EPF-Parks. The Restore NY program supports municipal projects and can include demolition; the NY DEC EPF-Parks is appropriate for park development such as for High Falls and connecting to SR217 through the Mellenville site.

John mentioned that the recording of County Climate Smart Task Force meeting of Nov 3, 2022 was distributed. He recommended that our CSC members try to find time to listen to it since there was a good discussion of all the Climate Smart programs in the County.

The meeting was adjourned around 7 PM

Summary by John Bradley