

Minutes, Claverack Climate Smart Task Force and Committee, October 10, 6:00 PM

The October Claverack Climate Smart met on Monday, Oct 10 at 6 PM at the Claverack Free Library Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 6 PM

Attendance: Elizabeth Davis, Tom Fergeson, Katy Flamia, Jeff Kiplinger, Mark Menne, Sarah Katan, John Bradley (a Task Force quorum was not present).

The minutes for the CSC meetings of August 8 and September 12 were accepted as distributed.

The Sept 12 meeting with guests Haley Balcanoff from the CDRPC and Supervisor Kippy Weigelt was discussed. It was agreed that the meeting was very successful in fostering better understanding and communicating between Kippy, the committee members and our CDRPC staff support, Haley.

The Bronze Certification effort was discussed at length. The group acknowledged the importance of Julie and Tom's work in organizing and submitting the information for credit, and the urgency to move ahead on priority actions. The Certification Work Group met in late September and further explored Haley's offer to provide assistance for Community Action Planning. It was noted that her syllabus for how to proceed in this planning would facilitate the process. As Haley had commented, the GHG Inventory for Government Operations, completed in 2021, provides an excellent opportunity to follow up with planning. It was agreed that the committee should move ahead with Climate Action Planning, a certification priority.

The group also briefly discussed the County's invitation to participate in the Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning with technical assistance from the Cornell Cooperative Extension staff. A benefit of participating in this effort is a more efficient process and collaboration with others to identify vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies.

John shared a draft of two resolutions for Town Board approval on Oct 13. The resolutions will authorize both the CAP and the Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning with the County and Cornell Co-op Extension staff.

During the discussion of these two overlapping planning processes, Tom Ferguson commented that he had recently reviewed the Town's Comprehensive Plan from 2008 and was under the impression that many of the plan's recommendations had not been addressed by the Town Board. It was suggested that maybe the initiation of this Climate Smart planning will lead to a more systematic approach to updating the Comprehensive Plan.

Sarah discussed the September newsletter and its distribution/reach. She reported that the CSC list (Mail Chimp) sends to 106 names. The Town website Announcement list adds about another 90, for just under 200. The WIX software documented 137 opens. This was a 17% increase over last month.

A lengthy discussion followed about what we want to accomplish with the newsletter and how we can improve our reach and effectiveness. It was noted that the purpose is to educate the community, reach and engage more of the community, and to recruit additional volunteers to work on our various projects. It was also suggested that we edit some of our newsletter articles as IMBY posts.

A question was raised as to how to reach more parts of the community, especially younger people. Several comments elaborated on the importance of a social media presence to reach the younger cohorts. It would be great to find a volunteer who would like to help with this endeavor. One suggestion was to hire an experienced person to do social media for a few months. Sarah offered to make some inquiries about this possibility.

John mentioned that an update on the town Hall is premature but the Historic Preservation of the Mellenville site is under study by a work group comprised of Katy Cashen, Brenda Shufelt and Jean LaPorta, Town Historian.

John also offered a reminder that a Roundtable meeting for CSC and CAC committees will be held on Oct 20 at the Basilica. The meeting is sponsored by Columbia Land Conservancy, the County Wide CSC-TF and the HV Climate Action Network (HVCAN). The Roundtable will be held quarterly and any CSC and CAC participants are invited.

Minutes prepared by John Bradley