

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2024 Town Hall, New Lebanon

Present: Kristine Cottom, Julie Fraad, Bob Gilson, Adelia Moore, Elizabeth Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

The meeting was called to order at 5:01

After approval of the minutes, Steve provided updates:

The **EV Campaign** has been filed after additional information was provided. This will earn a \$5000 grant and 200 points from Clean Energy Communities.

- **Battery recycling** boxes are in 5 locations now that the West Lebanon PO has closed. Bob will pick up the batteries locally this week and they will be picked up, along with electronic equipment that anyone would like to dispose of. So far, 942 lbs have been recycled. It was agreed that the Repair Cafe would order its own battery collection box.

- **Walkable Downtown:-** the final application was submitted on Jan 9

- **CEC status-** with the EV campaign completed, we now have 8200 points; earning us a \$175,000 NYSERDA grant. The bids for this grant must be submitted altogether, and work completed by Oct. 1 to qualify for the next level which we get us a \$250,000 grant. Allocating this money has been complicated because the garage roof needs sealing, which is not covered in the grant, before solar panels, which are covered by the grant, are installed. The Town must pay for sealing, which might cost about \$26,000

We need 800 more points, which we will have to receive an **additional grant from NYSERDA..** The plan is to use this grant to request battery back ups and the rest of the heat pumps for town hall.

A request for an **IRS credit** for the installation of solar panels has been submitted could mean a \$21,000 rebate for the Town.

- The **Water Tank grant for the LVPA**-is in progress The State wants extensive documentation.

Julie continues to collect **Plastic recycling** from the bin in Town Hall to bring to Chatham. We have so far kept 403 lbs of plastic out of the landfill. Steve noted that some businesses seem to be availing themselves of this bin.

- **Hazard Mitigation plan-update;** Cornell students are reviewing the plan in conjunction with the previous plan. The new plan, to be submitted to the County, will include stream restoration, education, flooding communication, and an official emergency management plan for the town. All this must be based on a FEMA flood study that has not been updated since 1975.

Bruce reported that 6 repairs were accomplished on **Bike Tune Up day**. Since its beginning the bike program has given out 197 repaired bikes. It has 55 available now. Posters about the free bikes have been distributed about town.

- **Landfill update:**- lawyers and an engineer have been chosen and the project is going out to bid. The State has granted money for the landfill, but needs to know the actual costs involved in order for the money to be in this year's budget. -

There are plans for partnership with Cornell Cooperative for a project that will involve the development of **emergency preparedness** information for our Website and additional media posts and the development of a community focused emergency/disaster preparedness tool kit. This will include applying for a separate grant to evaluate the Town's **culverts**, with an eye toward their eventual replacement.

Cathy reported that **composting** is going well, considering there are only three people involved. –Liz said she would do a Facebook post to emphasize that the County composter can accept bones, which can be dropped on in the kitchen scraps bucket at the Highway Department recycling site.

Peg reported, via Steve, that 97 tests of residents' well water, including some retests, have been done. More will be conducted in July. So far, the results have revealed only a small amount of e-coli. The Committee is planning to look for possible PFAS sites.

Adelia reported 32 visitors at a recent mini- **Repair Café**- at the library. The presence of boys from Hawthorne Valley School with a 3-D computer, who are interested in helping was a positive sign. The next one will be at Hoags Corner on June 8, followed by one at the Climate Carnival in September.

Liz reported that people are making return visits to the Free Store as it becomes part of the "thrifting" trend.

Bruce said the CSC will have a booth at the **Climate Carnival** in September and will need volunteers. He also noted that the **Rail Trail** is seeking ARPA funds to buy easements from residents, and that about 100 people, mostly from New Lebanon, attended a film about the **Shaker Swamp** last weekend.

The next meeting will be Monday, July 1-at Shatford Park

Meeting adjourned at 5:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Poreba