

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2024 Town Hall, New Lebanon

Present: Bob Gilson, Adelia Moore, Elizabeth Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

After approval of the minutes, Steve provided updates:

We are waiting for \$5000 as a result of a successful **EV Campaign-**

Battery recycling More than 1061 lbs of old batteries have been recycled. -

Walkable Downtown:- We are waiting for the contract from the DOT for the plan submitted. .

Then the Town Board will have to approve the \$400,000 match.

CEC status- Columbia County is the County that has won the most CEC funding in the state.

Steve has to submit paperwork for additional points by the end of month. This will be for solar

arrays on the garage, upgrading of garage internal lighting, and additional heat pumps. These

projects will get us to over 9000 points and qualify us for a \$250 000 grant. Since 75% of the

funding has been dispersed already, Steve assumes the rest will be distributed on a first come

first serve basis. We have succeeded in finding 10 more residents who have installed heat pumps,

which should qualify the town for a \$10,000 grant. These funds are helpful because costs have

gone up.

Steve has found an accountant to help is gain money from the IRA/IRS Direct Payprogram for

previous solar panel installations that the Town has undertaken. That should yield \$21,000

refund.

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

application is not finished, and has taken a year.

Bruce reported that Ancram, which also has a **Plastic recycling program**, has collected a ton of

plastic. We have collected more than 400 pounds. Steve pointed out that our collections are

increasing.

The Cornell student's **Hazard Mitigation Plan recommendations** are now available and Steve

urged members to read it. The Town has been asked to examine and if possible reduce repetitive

loss claims, though the people making those claims have not been identified.

Three **Bike Tune Up Days.** are scheduled for August 15, September 19 and October 17, from 3

to 5, in the Community Center.

The Landfill work is progressing. Meetings are held weekly. The Town must assume ownership

of the property in order to get a financial commitment from the State Assembly.

In, partnership with Cornell Cooperative the Town applied for a grant to evaluate the town's

culverts and to provide for social media outreach concerning **emergency preparedness.**

Cathy reported that **composting** is going well, with an increase in kitchen scrap collection. The

County composter has been repaired. Liz was asked to create a Facebook post noting that large

bones cannot be collected. A food scrap bucket will be at this Sunday's town picnic and will be

carefully supervised.

Bruce said that **Trees for Tribs** volunteers have been tending the trees, which are doing well.

The plentiful rain has helped.

Bob and Bruce are working on the Town's **Open Space Inventory**, building on a previous

document. This document mentions many features now existing which were at the time in the

planning stage. Bob said there needs to be a public forum to discuss the Inventory. Indigenous

Americans' holdings will be included in the new document. Then the Town Board must decide what level of protection they want for the designated protected areas.

Liz reported that the **Free Store** continues to get many visitors. Alissa Ross is preparing a video to be shown at the Climate Carnival.

The group went over who will preside at the CSC at the upcoming **Town Picnic** on August 11. and posters or flyers that will be available.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 4, at 5PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Poreba