

## **Climate Smart Communities Task Force meeting minutes**

Sept 4, 2024- 5:00pm at New Lebanon Town Hall

Present: Kris Cottom, Adelia Moore, Steve Powers, Liz Poreba, Cathy Wilkerson

After an addendum to the August meeting to the effect that there will be a Repair Cafe' as part of the Sept 14 Climate Carnival and another in New Lebanon on November 16, the minutes were approved as amended.

Steve proceeded with an update:

**The completion of the EV Campaign** brought a \$5000 grant.

The **Battery Collection Program** now has 4 boxes in 4 locations with the closing of the West Lebanon post office. So far, 1061 lbs of batteries have been collected. The recent collection will be handed to an electronics recycling program on Town Clean Up Day this Saturday. Adelia suggested that the Dollar Store might be a good place for the box formerly in the West Lebanon post office.

The **Walkable downtown-** application has been approved and is waiting for contract from DOT.

**CEC status:** NYSERDA did not award two hundred points for the heat pump campaign because some heat pump and water heater installations were at the same address, Another 700 points were lost for heat pumps in the garage because the garage is not open to the public. Steve is sending a letter explaining that the garage is open upon appointment. Another part of this grant is contingent on Steve buying electrical lawn care items and then documenting the purchase, which he plans to do.

The sealant on the garage roof is done and **solar panels** will be installed by October, but the points will not be awarded until the panels are hooked up to NYSEG

The \$21000 **IRS credit** to the town for solar panels is waiting for an accountant

The **LVPA Water Tank grant** is still in progress

The **Plastic Recycling program** has yielded 540 lbs so far and is definitely picking up the pace.-

The **Hazard Mitigation plan-update** is in progress, with the deadline coming up

At the **Bike Tune Up Day** at the Community Center last month, Moy and Larry fixed about 4 bikes. More tune up days are coming on Sept 19 and Oct 17

Lawyers and engineers are working on **-Landfill**, but the money for it is not awarded for it until the Town gains ownership of the land. -

**Cornell Coop Ext partnerships** for culvert evaluations & CSC projects under PE 9 Education and Engagement and **PE 9 Social Media are projected for 2025-26.**

Cathy reported that the **composting program** is picking up. Two buckets are now necessary twice a week to pick up food scraps brought to the transfer station. She monitored the food waste buckets at the Town Picnic and Barbecue and people were very receptive. She projected that putting food scraps separately will eventually become routine.

She composed a leaflet to be distributed at the Climate Carnival with information about composting, which Steve will duplicate. She is going to do a composting demonstration at the Climate Carnival.

Cathy noted that as of February, she will not be able to lift buckets for 4 months because of surgery, so additional help will be required to keep the program going. Peg submitted updates on **Trees for Tribs & Water**, which Steve read.- The committee's DWSP Plan was approved by DEC. This means that the committee will continue testing and is looking for funding to do so. Some of the samples from the 20-22 corridor will be useful for the Wastewater Muni Water Feasibility Study. The Committee has submitted a final plan to the Town Board for approval. The plants in Shatford Park are thriving. Tubes will be replaced with stakes next spring.

The committee is starting an update of the 2015 **Open Space Inventory**.

**Repair Café** : Adelia has gained two more young volunteers, so that as many as 30 fixers may be working at the Climate Carnival.

The next Repair Café will be November 16 in New Lebanon.

Steve reported that the **Bike repairs** campaign had refurbished or repaired 200 bikes to date and given out 66.

Liz reported that the **Free Store** had more than 500 visits in August. She requested that a bike rack be installed near the Free Store..

Volunteers for the Climate Carnival CSC table: Steve, all day, Liz 12-3, Cathy 12-2, Bruce- 11-3pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38

Next meeting: Oct. 2

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Poreba