

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes  
November 6, 2024 Town Hall, New Lebanon

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

Steve shared highlights from a Regional GHG Emissions assessment presentation he had attended. Two highlights were a 12% drop in transportation emissions between 2010 and 2024 and the more than 14,000 solar projects now throughout the state.

After approval of the minutes, Steve proceeded to business:

**Battery recycling** More than 1161 lbs of old batteries have been recycled.

**Walkable Downtown:-** A town-wide referendum will be held on this proposal on Nov. 21, with an earlier information session,

**CEC status-** The Town has been 9700 points and remains the regional leader. The \$250,000 NYSERDA grant this status entails has not yet been awarded.

The \$175,000 NYSERDA grant for electric upgrades & heat pumps in the garage still hasn't been paid and requires further paperwork. The system is not yet in operation because NYSEG has yet to install a transformer

After conferring with several IRS representatives, Steve has found that the \$21,000 IRS tax credit for the solar grant is not allowed, because it was a "restrictive grant."

The contract for the **LVPA Water Tank** has finally been signed. Now the lawyers need to get in touch. Cathy pointed out that with 48 states currently enduring drought, a water tank is vital.

The **Plastic recycling program** is up to 648 lbs (387 since Feb 9, 2024- 95 days left to make 1000lbs!). Julie is going to approach businesses such as County Square and Family Dollar to collect their clean, commercial plastic, and perhaps provide them with boxes. Julie would pick them as needed, because she goes to Chatham regularly.

The **Hazard Mitigation Plan** has been updated, with no response from the County as yet.

The final of 3 **Bike Tune Up Days** of the season was successful with 10 bikes repaired and 3 donated. Steve visited the **Landfill** with lawyers and engineers today. Work is in progress.

A grant for **culvert evaluations**, in partnership with Cornell Coop Ext. has been applied for, with no word as yet.

Cathy reported that **composting** is progressing well. All events at the Community Center now include a food scrap collection bucket, and people have learned not to toss in paper or plastic. There is not much interest in the soil enhancer, which is the finished product, but she has plenty available. Because of upcoming surgery, she will not be able to run the program for several months, so Steve is taking up most of the responsibilities, with help from Bruce and Liz.

Liz reported that the **Free Store** has received so many donations that it has now taken over an adjacent room as a temporary storage area

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 4, at 5PM at M&M's. Town Board members will be invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Poreba