

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes  
February 5, 2025 Town Hall, New Lebanon

Present: Kris Cottom, Julie Fraad, Adelia Moore, Frieda Pierce, Elizabeth Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson Guest: Ed Higgins

After approval of the minutes, Steve proceeded to business:

**Battery recycling** More than 1301 lbs of old batteries have been recycled, including 140 lbs that Bob took directly to the electronics recycling guy

**Walkable Downtown:-**Since the measure was approved, the Walkable Downtown Committee will have a follow up meeting at a date to be announced. Town spending is limited to \$500, 000. The project might be connected with a study of waste water along the corridor. Although this is a NY DOT project, there is federal funding involved.

**CEC status-** The Town has accrued 9700 points. The \$250,000 NYSERDA grant for the LVPA building is in process. The \$175,000 NYSERDA grant for electric upgrades & heat pumps in the garage is completed. NYSEG has installed the transformer on the garage

The **LVPA Water Tank** is to be delivered this month. The LVPA bills have been submitted to the State.

The **Plastic recycling program** up to 763 lbs since we started the February, 2024 start, not enough to earn a bench. The new round of collection starts Feb. 9. Adelia has been collecting from the Country Squire, which has proven to be a good source. She plans to ask Jesse if he would want to promote his store as a drop off location for plastic. She will also inquire at Dollar General if they are interested in joining the program. Julie suggested that the Science Club at the elementary school could also collect. She will inquire. It was agreed that collection boxes be in monitored locations.

The **Hazard Mitigation Plan** has been released but only Kris and Marc have yet reviewed it. Kris pointed out that fire risk, a growing possibility, has not been included. Ed Higgins spoke about Darrow Road and asked if an engineer could be sent to evaluate flood risks. Steve said he would inquire. He noted that the FEMA map had not been updated since 1985.

**The first Bike Tune Up Day** of the season is planned for May in the Pavilion. Steve is visiting the **Landfill** with engineers tomorrow and bids will be coming in. Steve and Tistrya will meet with lawyers about reimbursement once the Town officially takes over the landfill.

There is still no action on the **culvert evaluations**, to be done in partnership with Cornell Coop Ext. Frieda said she would call her Cornell contacts to inquire.

Bruce will be a member of a panel at the **Association of Towns** workshop on Feb 17, in New York City. He will be speaking about New Lebanon's CSC and CEC. The Town has been selected for an **Affordable Housing and Conservation Pilot Project**. This consortium of non-profits and universities gave a presentation to the Town Board, which approved participation. The Town was chosen because we are updating our comprehensive plan and perhaps also because of our CSC status. Discussion of the date for the Town's annual **Earth Day cleanup** ensued. Since schools will be on vacation on the intended date, April 19, the date was switched to **April 26**.

**Composting update** –since the County's digester is still under repair, Cathy and the team have been collecting but disposing of it locally.

The **Repair Café** is holding a pop up event for Seniors in June at the Community Center. The first Repair Café- will be on March 29 in Austerlitz. The group is repurposing old campaign signs to use for announcing their events.

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, March 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Poreba