

## Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2025 Town Hall, New Lebanon. 5PM

Present: Kris Cottom, Julie Fraad, Frieda Pearce, Elizabeth Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

After approval of the Feb & March minutes, Steve proceeded to business:

**Battery recycling:** More 1301 pounds recycled from the boxes in 5 locations

**Walkable Downtown:**-Waiting for engineers to present the redesign options.

**CEC status:** solar panels and battery backup may be finished this week.

The **LVPA Water Tank** has been buried, but will need to be re-buried. We are doing a press release next week.

**Plastic recycling program:** We're up to 856 lbs total, with 93 lbs collected since February 9, the new start-up date to get to 1000 lbs for a park bench.

The **Hazard Mitigation Plan** has not been updated yet. Steve will send it out for public review when the county consultants send the update. These funds are from the Feds via the state.

Bids have been approved for the **Landfill**, and the state is committed to 2 and a half million dollars for it.

We are still awaiting confirmation on potential **Cornell Coop Ext partnerships for culvert evaluations & CSC projects**.

This summer, a Cornell student will be involved in **benchmarking town buildings** to determine usage of oil, gas and electricity. The Community Center will be included.

Heating this building will be problematic because of the lack of insulation.

Moving the **EV charger** to the Community Center and possibly negotiating a new contract for the charger are both being considered.

The **Affordable Housing and Conservation Pilot Project**. committee has met and is just starting out.

**Earth Day cleanup** will be **April 26 at 10AM** starting at the pavilion. Mavericks will provide snacks. It is on the first day for Little League, which may affect attendance.

Cathy reported that **kitchen scrap collection** is moving right along. She sent a write up about the program to the Senior Club newsletter. The possibility of collecting scraps from other restaurants was discussed. It was agreed that the problem of monitoring what goes in the bin makes such collection impractical.

The first **Repair Café**- on March 29 in Austerlitz was a great success. There were over 104 tickets, many with multiple items. Donations totaled an unprecedented \$650. A volunteer with a 3D printer was able to create the missing knob for one item. The next Repair Café will be May 10 in New Lebanon.

Moi and Larry have determined that **Bike Tune Up Days** will be on the following dates and times: Shatford Park: May 17th 10-2, Community Center: June 19, July 17, August 21, Sept 18, and Oct 16: from 3:30 to 5PM.

Cathy reported that the **Free Store** always "super busy," with many items coming and going out. More students are attending the Community Center after school. Steve quoted a report that said that 1270 visits were made to the Community Center in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 7 at 5PM

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Poreba