

## Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2025 Town Hall, New Lebanon. 5PM

Present: Kris Cottom, Julie Fraad, Robert Gilson, Frieda Pearce, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

After approval of the April minutes, Steve proceeded —

**Battery recycling:** More 1301 pounds recycled from the boxes in 4 locations. An additional battery collection box, along with a plastics collection box, will be installed in the Community Center

**Walkable Downtown:**-We are waiting for engineers to present their quotes

**CEC program** is being revamped. We have potential projects waiting for funding for heat pumps and insulation in Town Hall. The Community Center solar power will soon be operational as soon as a new transformer is installed.

**Walkable Downtown:**-We are still waiting for the engineer to give alternate designs

The Press Release about the **LVPA Water Tank** appeared in the Columbia Paper. The original hole for it was too shallow and must be re-dug. We are in the process of getting the LVPA the final reimbursement for this from the state.

**Plastic recycling program:** We're up to 925lbs total, with 171 lbs collected since February 9, the new start-up date to get to 1000 lbs for a park bench. We do not anticipate reaching that goal.

We are still having trouble coordinating changes in the Town's **Hazard Mitigation**

**Plan that was submitted to the consultants hired by the county**

Lawyers and engineers are working on the **Landfill**. The bid has been approved but the property line adjustment must be signed

**Cornell Coop Ext partnerships for culvert evaluations:** We still haven't heard about

approval of the CSC projects under PE 9 Education and Engagement and PE 9 Social Media. Since other towns have obtained approval, we are waiting for confirmation

Marc and a Cornell student will be involved in **benchmarking** town buildings to determine usage of oil, gas and electricity, starting May 15. The phasing out of the Energy Star program, which included the Portfolio Manager charting fossil fuel usage, will make the job more difficult.

The relative possibilities of moving or replacing the **EV charger** to the Community Center are still being discussed. Funding for a new Level 2 charger might come through the CEC.

Everyone was urged to attend the meeting about **Affordable Housing and Conservation Pilot Project** on May 22, from 6 to 8. The format will be a brief introduction followed by small groups with facilitators. The group running the pilot project is a consortium associated with a movement called the "new urbanism," creating close-together core residential areas amid large swaths of land. The committee running this project is considering 5 possible sites. Resistance might center on a sense that this plan is from a group of outsiders, or on a fear that the project will attract low-income people.

**Earth Day cleanup** was a great success, with 16 people attending despite the rainy weather.

Steve is meeting with a group in **Stephentown** that gotten their town into the CEC. Steve recently attended the CLC "Countywide Conservation Plan" Open house.

**Trees for Tribs** finds that the trees in Shaftford Park need to be rearranged. The Town Board will be asked for funds for this. Volunteers are needed to help much and water the

trees. A survey regarding **water** and sewage is being distributed to residents along the 20/22 corridor.

Cathy reported that **kitchen scrap collection** is moving smoothly. Howard, who works at the center on Wednesday, helpfully got an additional kitchen scrap bucket when the first one was full.

**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.

Adelia urged members to attend first of two community meetings for the Housing/Conservation Pilot project: May 22 at the Community Center, 6-8 pm.

Cathy reported that the **Free Store** has a full slate of volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 4 at 5PM

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Poreba