

## Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2025 Town Hall, New Lebanon. 5PM

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

After approval of the minutes, Steve proceeded to business:

**Battery recycling:** More 1301 pounds have been recycled from the boxes, not including a recent pickup of at least 100 pounds. Collection is now in 5 locations, including the Community Center.

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

**CEC status:** 9700 points. Steve has been informed that there will be funds available in the next round. He is anticipating using grants to obtain more heat pumps and insulation for Town Hall, perhaps also a new EV charging station at the Community Center; however, the Town budget cannot cover the \$9000 necessary for a new charger. What to do with the present charger behind the library is yet to be decided.

The **LVPA Water Tank** has been buried and the final bills for it submitted to the State.

**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. People are using the new collection box for plastics at the Community Center.

The **Hazard Mitigation Plan** has not been updated yet because some towns have been slow in submitting theirs.

The **Landfill:** the landowner has agreed to the plan, and the lowest bidder has been accepted and is ready to get to work. It is awaiting State approval. The State is covering the full cost.

We have not yet heard back about the potential **Cornell Coop Ext partnerships for culvert evaluations & CSC projects.** Freida indicated that the wording of grants must be changed, eliminating language concerning DEI or climate change, before they can be approved. This may account for the delay.

This coming Monday, June 9, Marc will start **benchmarking for town buildings.** to determine usage of oil, gas and electricity. The problem is that NYSEG does not indicate the source of the electricity used, so regular readings of the meters are necessary.

The **Affordable Housing and Conservation Pilot Project.** meeting last week was very well done, according to the members who attended. Basically, everyone seemed to agree the senior housing should be a priority.

Steve reported that he met with residents of **Stephentown** who are trying to form a CSC Taskforce. He said that the group was very motivated.

The CLC's **Countywide Conservation Plan** is coming up for public discussion on July 19. at 10:00 a.m. at Columbia-Greene Community College. Find additional details and [register for the event here](#).

Bruce said that the **trees** in Shatford Park are doing well, though the creek bank is falling in. The tubes around the tree are necessary until the trees are 5 years old, so they will be removed next year. Peg is doing most of the maintenance, though Bruce helps. Freida offered to help stake the trees. It was agreed that these severe, heavy rain storms would threaten the creek banks whether or not there were trees.

Cathy reported that **kitchen scrap collection** now amounts to two full buckets a week. The Seniors' group is participating during their meetings at the Community Center. Tistrya and Wendy consulted and decided that a sign informing residents about where they can recycle batteries and plastic film can be posted at the New Lebanon transfer station. Freida volunteered to create the poster, which will be laminated. Cathy also said that Alyssa had agreed that a small bulletin board can be posted at the Community Center for environmental information. Cathy is planning to post excerpts from an email about moths from the Nassau CSC. Frieda volunteered to provide graphics.

The next **Repair Café**-will be part of Canaan Celebration Day and will run from 1-4 on June 14, at Canaan Town Hall. Patrons will park at the Highway Department and will be shuttled to the event.

Moy and Larry have reported that 10 **bikes** have given away so far in 2025; 80 bikes given out in 2024. The tune up day of May 10 was successful, The next Repair Café will include bike repair. **Bike Tune Up Days** will be at the Community Center: June 19, July 17, August 21, Sept 18, and Oct 16: from 3:30 to 5PM.

Cathy reported that the **Free Store** is always "bustling."

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44

The next meeting will be July 2 at 5PM in Shatford Park, weather permitting

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Poreba