

Climate Smart Communities Task Force Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2025 Town Hall New Lebanon. 5PM

Present: Kris Cottom, Liz Poreba, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Cathy Wilkerson

After approval of the minutes, Steve proceeded to business:

Battery recycling: boxes in 5 locations, including Community Center; 1301 lbs recycled. 129 lbs were shipped out. The next batch will be turned in on Electronics Recycling Day, Sept 6. The future is uncertain since FedEx will no longer ship batteries.

Walkable Downtown: The contract with the state has been signed.

CEC status- 9700 points accumulated. There is no news on \$250,000 NYSERDA grant the Community Center; perhaps we will hear in October.

Entry for the NYSERDA grant competition to go net zero in one building may not go through because of a glitch in filing the paper work despite Steve's filling out 42 pages and obtaining three estimates and letters of support. Hinchey and Barrett's offices have been enlisted to help. The application called for installing a heat pump to hook it up to existing ducts and a battery backup.

Plastic recycling program: we're up to 1086 lbs since we started (323 since Feb 9, 2025-was the new round start date)

Hazard Mitigation Plan consultants hired by the county have submitted the plan to the state but we don't have copy.

The Landfill: is moving along though a month behind schedule. The hold-up has been the tons of tires that must be dug up, cleaned, and transported for shredding. Though 330 cubic yards of tires were anticipated, there are about 1200 cubic yards. Steve showed recent pictures of the 6 acres that have been cleared. It would be a good place for a solar array, but it is probably too far from a substation to make it viable, and an installation would need a variance. Steve meets with DEC representatives and engineers every two weeks about this project.

We are waiting for confirmation for the **Cornell Coop Ext partnerships for culvert evaluations & CSC** projects. under [PE 9 Education and Engagement](#) and [PE 9](#). Not much progress because of summer vacations.

Marc and Morgan will give a presentation at the next Town Board Meeting on Aug 12 about the **Cornell project for Summer- Benchmarking Town buildings**

Though some members of the Town Board suggested the installation of a Level 3, rather than a level 2 **EV charger** at the Community Center, the difference in price is significant. Level 2 EV charger would cost the Town about \$9000 - \$1000 considering existing credit — while the level 3 would cost about \$100,000. Cathy added that drivers of hybrids cannot use level 3 chargers anyway. A new contract for a level 2 charger at the Community Center would include 5. years free annual maintenance. Steve will propose this charger at the next Town Board meeting.

Affordable Housing and Conservation Pilot Project- Adelia reports that the committee will put together a proposal based on the locations suggested at the public meeting

Tabling for **Music in the Park** this coming Sunday, August 10: Cathy 12-2 Adelia 2-4

A **Farmers Market** at Woodlife may begin in late August, after Town Board approval.

Bruce reported that the trees planted by **Trees for Tribs** are doing very well. Some are now out of their tubes and staked.

Peg made a presentation to the Environmental Management Committee about the **CEC's water testing program** and was well received.

Bruce also reported that the next **Repair Café-** will be in Chatham on September 27, on Frisbee Street off 295.

So far in 2025, the **Bike Program** has given away 15 bikes and held 3 Tune Up Days at Shatford Park-The last tune up day resulted in an appreciative letter, which is on the Town website. The next tune up days will be at the Community Center Aug 21, Sept 18 and Oct 16 from 3:00pm-to 5pm.

The **Free Store**, according to Cathy, is "hopping." A post on the Town website clearly explains that the Free Store is not just for people in poverty. Cathy remarked on the heavy volume of donations. Kris suggested a moratorium might be in order. Cathy said an end-of-August "sale" is being contemplated.

9. **Next meeting** date – September 3, 5PM

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Poreba