



**Town of Poughkeepsie  
Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

**August 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM  
Supervisor's Conference Room, Town Hall**

Present: Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair  
Ann Shershin, Ward 6  
Michelle Gluck, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)  
Kristen Gaynor, Town Planner  
Katherine Espinosa, Task Force Member  
Richard Levine, Task Force Member  
Stanley Merritt, Task Force Member  
Beverly Santero, Task Force Member

Introductions:

- The individuals introduced themselves and shared their motivations for joining the group.
- Susan provided a brief history of the Climate Smart (CS) process in the town. Prior to the formation of this group the town entered into an agreement with CCE to begin working on the CS Planning Tool and for Michelle to work with us going forward (has a grant for this purpose). Michelle explained her role as advisor.
- Susan will contact the two members who were unable to make this initial organizational meeting to schedule a review of all pertinent information (Laura DiStefano, Joan Freeman).

Presentation by Michelle Gluck:

- The CS program has been in existence at least 10 years.
- She works for CCE's Environment and Energy Program and has worked with other municipalities towards CS certification.
- Has nearly completed the CS Planning Tool (action 7.3 towards certification); it is in draft form now, recommendations will soon be finalized and presented at a Town Board meeting in the fall. She will share the document with the group.
- We will also be awarded points for forming the task force.
- As a group, we will complete the CS Assessment which will inform our planning.
- The Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) has collaborated with multiple municipalities for the Climate Action Planning Institute – completed in Ulster Co. The parties work together on emissions inventory which is much more efficient. They are now preparing to do this in Dutchess and the town will be one of eight municipalities to participate.
- The town also participated in the Climate Resiliency Building workshop.
- We looked at the CS website and how to utilize it, including filtering by actions to determine which municipalities have completed them and identify potential contacts.

- We looked at the structure of the CS Action Checklist. Michelle has a corresponding Town of Poughkeepsie checklist; she will put it on Google Drive with view access for the group.
- Susan mentioned that there will be points of intersection with the CAC (Conservation Advisory Commission). She is a member of the CAC and will function as liaison.
- A municipality must reapply for certification every five years; this is an opportunity to move to the next level.
- Public outreach and education are important components and can be documented.
- Michelle will also provide link to the Dutchess Co. task force site, important to monitor their activity to avoid redundancy as well as benefit from their experience. Having a liaison to that group would be worthwhile if we have the bandwidth.

Discussion:

We had the opportunity to share areas of personal interest that might drive our individual work for the group. Some of these include:

- Susan – EV charging infrastructure, composting, public education. Feels that the group should become knowledgeable about CCA (Community Choice Aggregation) in order to help guide this discussion in the town, we defined this briefly, Susan has contacts to bring in a presentation (has been presented to the board in the past).
- Ann – solar infrastructure on existing town plants (e.g., water treatment or sewer plants) and expanding the one on Town Hall.
- Richard – areas related to Pledge Element 3 including fleet inventory.
- Beverly – land use and forestation. This is extremely relevant to CAC which is currently engaged in the development of the town's natural resources inventory and open space plan.
- Katherine – public spaces, recycling, shade, public education.
- Kristen – stressed the importance of tackling some “low-hanging fruit” to build momentum while increasing outreach. Short-term vs. long-term goals to be considered.

Next steps:

- Prior to the next meeting, individuals should more fully explore the CS website and action list and start to identify areas of personal interest. Using the tools there, explore what other municipalities have done in those areas and possibly note some specific contacts.

- Susan will meet with Mark Fink, the town's Software Support Analyst, to pursue setting up a web page and an email address for the group. She will confer with Jay Baisley and Mike Welti regarding requirements for our agendas and minutes to be on the town site and access to the CS state portal.
- Susan and Ann will reach out regarding our participation at the Arlington Street Fair on 9/21/19.
- Susan will send a Doodle poll to help identify the best timing for a monthly meeting, with the understanding that not everyone will make every meeting. She will inquire about the existence of any virtual meeting technology through the town.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht