



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

**September 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM
First Floor Conference Room, Town Hall**

Minutes

- Task Force members present:
Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Beverly Santero
Richard Levine
Stanley Merritt
Katherine Espinosa
Ann Shershin
Kristen Gaynor

- Updates since 8/5 meeting: account: we now have a task force web page which is accessed from the menu on the left side of the Town's home page. Our page can also be found at <https://www.townofpoughkeepsie.com/cstf/index.htm> . Susan will try to add a monthly update after meetings. We have a Town email address which is climatesmart@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov Susan has login credentials and, since this is not a personal account, it can be handed off later if needed.
 - Ongoing meeting schedule: first Thursday was identified as the most feasible date for a monthly meeting, with the understanding that not every individual will be able to make every meeting. Members please look at their 2020 calendars. There do not appear to be any holiday conflicts.
 - Susan met with Joan Freeman and Laura DiStefano since the 8/5 meeting. They are completely up to speed and will join us shortly at regular monthly meetings.
 - Public events and displays: we will have a presence at
 - Arlington Street Fair 9/21 - Jay Baisley offered space in the Town booth. Susan will get more specifics and share with everyone. She plans to spend the day and welcomes company.
 - Peach Hill Cider Ramble 9/28 - CAC taking lead on this, Susan hopes to be there for some part of the day.

The goal is to let town residents know we exist. Susan plans to develop a physical display board and has some materials/suggestions from Michelle Gluck, including basics about CSC from the state, contact info, etc. Additional excellent suggestions tonight: use the bullet points from the CSC resolution that we have on our web page;

provide opportunity for residents to sign up to assist with specific projects. There will also be a sign up sheet for CAC.

- Briefing on Comprehensive Plan

Kristen provided a summary of the CP process, the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee. The prior CP was adopted in 2007. Requires periodic updates. Looks at existing conditions in the community. A very challenging, detailed process. Works with county on mapping e.g. zoning, water features; maps are on the CP site. The Natural Resources Inventory is a part of this process, and the CAC is working on that piece. There is a grant to support the NRI and resulting open space plan with professional assistance. There are additional grants to support the CP. The consultant hired via the grant has to go before the Board for formal contract approval. The CPRC meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month, the public can speak, refer to town meeting web page. Inviting town stakeholders i.e. school district superintendents, fire and police depts, developers, DEC, Scenic Hudson, etc. to gauge resources. This is a broad view of the community, we expect sustainability elements to be present in the resulting plan, setting goals and tasks and implementation measures, therefore it behooves us to understand this simultaneous process. This takes a year or more, probably a 12-15 month process. Kristen and Ann both work on the CPRC and can function as our liaisons.

- Continuation of discussion re: Climate Smart Assessment

The primary goal of this meeting is to solidify our own next individual tasks towards identifying existing conditions on each CS pledge element, including establishing a committee liaison for each area.

Michelle Gluck is completing the CS Resiliency Planning Tool and will hopefully present it to the Board in the fall. She provided a sample document that she recently completed for Red Hook. We looked at our own starting checklist (provided by Michelle). Initially this is for assessment purposes; accepting responsibility for a given area does not mean that the individual committee member will be limited to this going forward. Susan prepared a summary of the pledge elements to facilitate this process and we were able to identify a committee member for most areas (refer to list below). We all agree that we need clarification of the differences between the Tool and the checklist, since Michelle has already obtained so much information. Susan will reach out to Michelle for assistance. Members should start to reach out for more detailed information. Kristen can assist by making town personnel aware of our process. We can delve into the details on the CS website to learn more about what info is needed.

PE	Focus	Liaison
1 Build a climate-smart community	Establish Task Force	Susan/Ann Board
2 Emissions	Inventories/plans - CAPI	Richard
3 Energy use	Town buildings, fleet, lighting, purchasing, waste, employee commuting, etc.	Stanley
4 Renewables	Power purchasing, installations	Ann
5 Materials Management	Waste/recycling in town buildings, resource recovery, public recycling/composting	Susan
6 Land use	Comprehensive plan - sustainability elements Related to CAC, NRI	Kristen, Ann Susan (CAC)
7 Community resilience	Vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies	Beverly
8 Green innovation economy	Jobs, vendors, farmers' markets, brownfields, incentives. Green business partnership	Stanley
9 Public education	CC education, outreach, campaigns, website, social media	Laura, Katherine
10 Evolving climate action	Tracking progress, updates Partnering with communities/agencies (CAPI should be documented here too?)	

- Committee liaisons needed for the following:
 - Dutchess County Climate Smart Task Force - Meeting 10/2 at 5:30 pm at 230 North Rd. See their site for agenda. Stanley is available to attend and liaison. Richard may be available and Susan will try to attend as well. It's essential that they know what we are doing and vice versa. Susan will reach out to the co-chairs to let them know we'll be there.

- 2020-21 Climate Action Planning Institute Dutchess County (CAPI) - Richard is interested in this group, aligned with his interest in emission data and inventory. It would work well for him since it won't ramp up until 2020. Susan provided him with an email from Europa McGovern, HV Regional Council, on this topic. The Town expects to be one of several municipalities working together to complete emissions inventories, county will be lead. This was previously done in Ulster with great success.
- Hudson 7 - This is the group of communities drawing from the Hudson. Meets on the 3rd Thursday. Jay had invited Susan to attend, she would like to identify a committee member eventually to liaison here.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht