



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze



Town of Poughkeepsie Climate Smart Communities Task Force

January 4, 2024 at 7 pm

The meeting occurred on Zoom at the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82699178348>

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Joan Freeman
Thomas Lynch
Ann Shershin, Ward 6

Guests:

Rebecca Edwards, Town Supervisor
Barbara Laird, Ward 2 Representative

Introduction of new Town Board personnel:

Barbara is expected to be appointed as a CSTF liaison by Board. Susan will add both Rebecca and Barbara to the CSTF Google Drive.

Update on Community Choice Aggregation discussion:

Susan reported that she had arranged a conversation with incoming electeds and Joule rep, Peggy Kurtz, in order to continue the dialog already in place. Anticipate that this will come to the Board at some point, but being exceedingly careful about timing especially in light of the rate increase being requested by Central Hudson. It will be enormously helpful to hear from other towns which are already in aggregations. There will also be some additional data available thanks to the regional inventory being used for the Community cohort.

Update on Community GHG Inventory Report development:

Susan and Joan working on the report; meetings have been scheduled for the Action Plan phase, February through June. Ann will follow up on need for sewer info to increase accuracy of data.

Update on Adaptation Chapter:

Kickoff meeting 2/8 all day in Peekskill, Susan will attend, Kristen may attend. This was originally envisioned without staff time, and we may look at other potential participants.

Update on CAPI Action Plan development:

Susan met earlier today with Kristen Taylor and Mike Welti to review status. At this point we need to review and select strategies based on CHG Inventory results; by end of this month there should be a limited meeting for this specific purpose (separate from any larger

climate/environment-focused discussion of the town's overall direction). Susan will follow up to facilitate scheduling with this group. We will continue with the CAP template after making some of these decisions. (Following this meeting, that discussion was scheduled for 1/30).

Update on Community Campaign planning:

- Clean Heating/Cooling - Feza Oktay/Richard Levine - meeting planned with HVRC personnel on 1/17
- EV - to follow
- Community Solar - Susan reaching out to providers serving our area to request participation in documenting sign ups since 6/1/23 for Tier 2 requirements (100 needed for Action Grant for large municipality) and in the case that any would like to be involved in a public campaign

Update on current projects:

- Chargers - we still do not know if/when the new chargers will be ready to use. There may be a need for Comptroller involvement in setting up the financial aspects. Barbara will confer with Rebecca to follow up.
- Solar array Water Dept. - Kristen Taylor is reaching out to Tom Colgan for update.

Dept. of Energy Block Grant:

Mike Welti raised in meeting earlier today - \$70K+ for specific uses - considering EV, Susan also suggested additional charging infrastructure (Senior Center?) or energy audits of municipal buildings to help drive correct actions. Need to decide on use by end of April. There will be follow up.

Hudson 7:

Tom reported that H7 did not meet in December. Rebecca is aware that new reps are needed. Current topics include: Champlain-Hudson Power Express, hiring of a coordinator funded by the communities involved, three-year study on sea level rise model.

CSTF calendar:

- Repair Cafe at Vassar Barn on Saturday, 2/10/24 (snow date 2/11)
- 2024 meeting dates: stay with first Thursdays, but need to change June, July, October (Susan needs to give calendar to Joyce Longi)
For the time being we'll schedule these for the following Thursdays, with option to change as the date approaches.

Next meeting:

Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 7 pm on Zoom

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht