



**Climate Smart  
Communities**  
Certified Bronze



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

**January 5, 2023 at 7 pm**

The meeting occurred on Zoom at the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85918232519?pwd=QkFoN0EwbXJzVnZLTlUzNGxHYIN0Zz09>

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair  
Joan Freeman  
Ann Shershin  
Feza Oktay  
Thomas Lynch  
Richard Levine  
Stanley Merritt

Guest:

Johanna Fallert, Town resident, Mothers Out Front contact

CAPI Dutchess: First meeting will finally occur on 1/18/23 at the Farm & Home Center in Millbrook. Susan and Richard plan to attend. We do not know who will attend from Town staff. Susan will inquire with Kristen Taylor.

ECET action approval: Tim Sickles, Building Dept., attended the training and immediately provided his certificate of attendance. Susan submitted to CEC, it was approved as a high-impact action for additional points, and may be submitted for the next CSC level. We discussed the nature of the code; Ann noted that the Town does follow the required code, and that this is a form of continuing education to make sure they are current.

Regarding other potential high-impact actions for CEC, there is a new press release from Hudson Valley Community Power regarding community aggregations. Susan will forward it to everyone.

Solar project/grants: SunCommon rep, Craig Hightower, returned to the Water Dept. site, and it was agreed that doing all 3 buildings would be ideal in terms of overall ROI. An updated proposal/contract was provided to the Town Supervisor, who has developed a list of questions with the Town Attorney that will need to be answered before proceeding.

The smaller CEC Designation Grant of \$5000 was received and has been earmarked for this project by the Comptroller.

Green Business initiative: Planning meeting occurred 1/3/23 with our assigned liaison, Maria Genovesi. Maria is in the Westchester area, worked previously with Sustainable Westchester, and is very familiar with CSC. She has an established relationship with Sustainable Hudson Valley and can help bring this to bear for our benefit with GBB (SHV leader, Melissa Everett, will attend the February CSTF meeting). The meeting left us with the sense that GBB would like to expand around Dutchess, which we support. There is the possibility of a student intern from a Vassar course being taught this semester by Rebecca Edwards; Susan is discussing with her. A student could provide a great deal of hands-on help with implementation. It will be important to review the CSC Green Business action to determine if we can meet requirements to submit for it.

Tiffin project: Feza reviewed his research. He was in touch with Gardiner and New Paltz and has a lead on a specific restaurant. The task force there is selling tiffins at cost, their work is more with individuals than restaurants at this initial phase, the individuals are in effect educating the businesses. Ulster Co. Health Dept. is on board with this, he has not yet reached out to Dutchess but will do so. A non profit, New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, was the vehicle for the initial bulk purchase, there was a donor to seed it. They also provide the map of participating restaurants:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?ll=41.74748347239704%2C-74.09086009119801&z=16&mid=1U1t2q1jvA4LgcPj2ZZUc-lek-PIJOdo>

We discussed the need to have such a donor or organization as a financial vehicle. Susan can bring this idea to Rotary when presenting to them in Feb. We could also bring such an idea to the Vassar Co-op, Farm Project, or CIA. We also discussed if the vendor they used is the only one.

Johanna shared that a bulk refill store “Tomfillery” will open in March at 794 Main St. in Arlington. This is great news for our town, since existing stores are in Beacon or Red Hook. She will pursue the idea of the store owner providing a retail outlet for tiffins. <https://www.tomfillery.com/our-story> Johanna is also in contact with the owner of REfill at 480 Main St. in Beacon, who is interested and will pursue there with the Green Beacon group (we are going to determine more about this group and its relationship to CSC Beacon - Susan has a relationship with the task force coordinator there.

#### Other business:

- All CSTF files have now been moved to a Google account provided for us by the Town.
- Earth Day county event planned for Saturday 4/29 (a week after actual Earth Day 4/22 which should allow communities to do planned events as well as participate). Susan is in the group to learn about how we can participate and this would be collaborative with the CAC as it was at the Street Fair.
- Tom shared information from his email to the Hudson 7 technical advisor re: salt front issues. This is related to anticipated sea level rise and the impact on water intakes for H7 communities. Using the database from the USGS tracking the daily salt front location over a long time period, he determined that the likelihood of the front reaching or passing Poughkeepsie is probably sooner than anyone realizes. Susan will share Tom’s complete email to the group.

Tom also reported, regarding CHPE, that a pilot project was done for water sampling and that they may have found insignificant impact on water quality from the laying of

cable in the riverbed. He expects to discuss at H7's January meeting.

Regarding the watershed characterization discussed last month, Tom checked with Sean Carroll, and it turned out his figures were incorrectly labeled as acres rather than miles, but the percentage is correct - 28% of the town is in the watershed, but this is only 4% of the entire watershed.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 7 pm - we will be joined by representative(s) from Sustainable Hudson Valley to discuss potential areas of support and collaboration.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht