



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze



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

May 4, 2023 at 7 pm

The meeting took place on Zoom at the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85918232519?pwd=QkFoN0EwbXJzVnZLTIUzNGxHYIN0Zz09>

Task Force members present: Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Richard Levine
Joan Freeman
Tom Lynch
Ann Shershin, Ward 6

Guest: Hannah Charlson, Vassar College intern

Presentation of completed project on the topic of gas-powered leaf blower bans, by Hannah Charlson for the “Big Problems, Local Solutions” intensive course at Vassar (copy of presentation and final paper will be provided to the CSTF, along with links to the Larchmont presentations to their Board which provide a model)

Ann noted that our Highway Dept. has some electric equipment at this time. She wasn't sure if feasible at this time to approach the Board regarding the idea of a rebate or buyout of some kind for local lawn services to help them make the switch. Grant funding would be ideal for such a purpose.

Susan attended the class presentations on 4/18 and found all of the students and projects impressive and diverse. Someone there mentioned that 2-stroke engines may actually be getting banned in NY - we are not sure. Many other types of equipment besides blowers are gas-powered.

CAPI Dutchess update: Susan reported that we have completed 4 of the monthly cohort meetings and are on the way with data collection/entry for emissions from various town sources. This work is being managed primarily by Kristin Taylor. At some point in the near future the cohort will move on to the next project phase, development of the actual inventory. Some of this will require consideration of audience and messaging needs.

Solar project/charger installation status: Susan spoke with Supervisor Bailey, who reported that a second bid was being obtained from Veith Electric as well as an updated bid from SunCommon. He indicated that two bids would be adequate. Susan reiterated the concern

that Veith is not listed in NYSERDA; he said that Veith had been purchased by a company in Westchester that is listed but did not provide the name. Supervisor Bailey committed to keeping us in the loop on this as well as the EV charger installation at Town Hall, for which the Town has a grant and is figuring out the electric line installation that will be needed.

Green Business initiative update: Susan reported that turnout for the launch webinar was very poor despite the significant effort to get the publicity out, including in-person visits by Ann, Feza, and Susan to key business areas. A few registrants did not attend. However, all registrants will receive follow-up, and Maria Genovesi at GBB continues to pursue additional connections through the County, the Chamber of Commerce, and others. We will continue to advertise this opportunity.

Repair Cafe recap and plans: Our first Repair Cafe was a resounding success, and kudos go especially to Town resident Lisa Kaul, the primary organizer and driver. Now that we have a model and have connected locally with attendees, we plan to continue with periodic events (possibly a rotation with Pleasant Valley and the City of Poughkeepsie if the latter gets a Cafe in place). Susan, Feza and Lisa did a debrief to identify items to be tweaked. We are reaching out to Vassar Barn to try a different location - target July/August.

Dutchess Earth Day event recap: Susan tabled for CSTF/CAC/Pollinator Pathways at the 4/29 event. Traffic was low, but it was a nice event that also offered the participating groups the opportunity to network. The organizers hope to repeat annually but will consider location and timing for possible changes.

CSC points status towards Silver: Susan will be updating our running file to determine where we are in terms of a next submission with our various ongoing "irons in the fire."

Other business:

Ann attended a recent presentation re: testing related to CHPE (Champlain-Hudson Power Express) and has a copy that Susan will distribute. The riverbed cable will be in a slightly different place than originally planned. Tom reported from Hudson7 on this topic. The preliminary jetplowing data was provided to the municipalities; it was technically complex, and the Town of Esopus hired a specialist to analyze it with the hope that the other 6 towns will contribute to the expense. TDI wants to start laying cable later this summer, it appears likely that this will proceed, but H7 remains concerned. Advisor has raised the point: what will residents do if there is even a temporary issue with sediment in the system? Will the existing filtration systems at intakes be able to handle the amount of sediment stirred up? Will there be an emergency backup plan in case clean water is needed?

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht