



**Climate Smart  
Communities**  
Certified Bronze



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

**June 2, 2022 at 7 pm**

The meeting occurred on Zoom at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91995613444?pwd=d1dacndyNzI0VEF3ZXlicFJkb1JCQT09>

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair  
Thomas Lynch  
Feza Oktay  
Richard Levine

Ann Shershin, Ward 6  
Joan Freeman  
Stanley Merritt

Review content from 5/31 meeting with Supervisor regarding proposed uses of CEC grants:

Susan and Ann met with Jay Baisley to discuss the Task Force's preferred uses for the \$5,000 Designation Grant and the \$15,000 Action Grant. Both grants should be used to further CSC goals and demonstrably reduce emissions or address other areas. We should target the 7/13 Board Meeting/Committee of the Whole, given the time frame for the grant applications.

- Regarding the use of the smaller grant for a Green Business Challenge, there is interest, but we will need to provide a fleshed-out proposal before this can go to the board, which will need to approve the proposal. The Green Business Bureau (GBB) model may make more sense for us than the Biztracker model, since the latter would require so much time and effort to administer. GBB would provide an existing package, which we could use the funds to support and incentivize. The GBB certification platform allows a business to select actions from a menu and work towards a recognized seal. We would use funds to purchase or offset memberships and would need to determine how to select businesses to receive this support. On Monday 6/6 at 4 pm we have a meeting with the GBB representative. Task Force members are welcome to join and Susan will forward the link to the group.

Jay asked what, if anything, the County is doing on the Green Business front and was concerned to avoid duplication. Feza will reach out to Europa McGovern to inquire since she is involved with the County CSTF. There is nothing relevant on the County site.

The GBB platform is listed as a resource in the Green Business CSC action and we should explore that.

- Regarding the use of the larger grant to support an EV purchase, Susan reported on her discussion with the Beacon CSC Coordinator, Faye Leone, about their experience acquiring a Ford Mach-E for their detectives. It took some time to get the vehicle outfitted with

specialty equipment. They had wanted to target a patrol car due to the amount of idling time, but it did not work out in terms of how much outfitting and weight would be involved. They did use the various incentives via the State procurement process and got the vehicle through the Healey dealership.

Ann will reach out to the Fishkill Supervisor to understand why it was reported in the media that their new EV is not being utilized. Since our charger installation is in the works, we still prefer this “preapproved” project. She will also work on access to the State procurement information.

Jay expressed some concern about the charging, especially as we also discussed the possibility of a PHEV. However, once it was clarified that an EV could be plugged in over a weekend on a standard plug, and topped off overnight, Jay agreed that an EV could be a good fit for a town hall-based department car which would not normally use more miles than that over the course of a week. Susan will contact NYSERDA liaison, Eleanor Peck, to ask if hybrids also qualify for the grant, although this is not our preference. We will also ask if the smaller grant can be added to the larger one for an EV should our Green Business plan not come to fruition.

We need to work up maintenance cost comparison info for the Board as well. Joan can work on a vehicle list and some comparative info.

Feza also suggested that we talk to staff to gauge enthusiasm for using an EV for work trips. Susan will reach out to Kristen to discuss this question.

Feza can also ask Europa about the City of Poughkeepsie EV purchases (we understand that they purchased Nissan Leafs for the parking dept.).

Susan will set up shared folders for each grant proposal into which we can put info that we gather.

### Comprehensive Plan:

Tom completed the extensive document that is needed for submission of the CMP sustainability elements. Susan will upload this into the correct folder and assess what else is needed to finish documentation for this action.

### New Business:

- Ann shared the draft EV charger code under consideration by the Board. There will be a public hearing. Ann has emailed the draft to Task Force members and asks that we respond with any feedback.
- We should take a look at leaf blower ordinances. We should confer with CAC on this topic since the goals overlap.
- Planning ahead for the Arlington Street Fair - 9/17/22. There is a possible change in location due to issues with the state permit for road closure. We will share a table with CAC. We discussed sponsoring a simultaneous EV demo on a neighboring location - many organizations have done these. Feza suggested that we connect with the Hudson Valley EV owners group - he has the contact info.

- Susan shared information about the plan (based at the CAC) to create Pollinator Pathway sites in each ward over this spring/summer/fall. She is working with the Parks/Recreation Director on this project. Municipal sites in each ward will be identified and planting events scheduled, with the goal of engaging the community and increasing the profile of this effort. She hopes that you'll support this project in your own ward.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 7 pm \*location TBA, awaiting information regarding meeting laws

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht