

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



**June 3, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

The meeting occurred and was recorded on Zoom at the following link:  
<https://zoom.us/j/91995613444?pwd=d1dacndyNzI0VEF3ZXlicFJkb1JCQT09>

Task force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair  
Ann Shershin  
Richard Levine  
Stanley Merritt  
Katherine Espinosa  
Thomas Lynch  
Joan Freeman

Note: Beverly Santero resigned from the Task Force since our May meeting due to her plan to move out of the area. Susan spoke with the Town Supervisor, we can work towards appointing a new member but in the meantime the focus is on resubmission.

Update on Clean Energy Communities (CEC) liaison: Anilla Cherian left this position at HV Regional Council. Our new liaison is Eleanor Peck. Eleanor was previously the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Beacon and functioned as the CSC Chair, so she is very familiar with the municipal end of the process; in addition, Susan has a previously established acquaintance as a result - both of these variables will be beneficial.

\* Susan met with Eleanor to review our CSC application on 6/4 following this meeting. Feedback from the meeting is incorporated here and each statement is preceded by (EP) to clearly identify the source.

Status of all actions in progress in anticipation of 7/2/21 resubmission date: this information is also reflected in the task force's shared spreadsheet entitled "Initial submission response and plan." The following information pertains only to actions that are being updated or revised - actions being retained are understood to be left in their original form. Joan made the suggestion that task force members reach out individually to their ward reps, or all Board members if desired, to have more voices urging them to follow through this month with the Climate Education & Engagement Plan and Unified Solar Permit, as well as recycling policy if possible. We should also reiterate the request for their support with Solar for All campaign.

PE1, Task Force: Susan updated and reconfigured member list in accordance with feedback, has been uploaded to portal.

PE1, Partnerships: we need a statement connecting Hudson 7, water quality and quantity, with climate goals. Tom can provide this content to Susan to update the action. She can also look at what other H7 communities who are certified may have submitted.

PE3, Fleet Inventory: Kristen Taylor had reported that she hopes to have the needed updates from the Auto Dept. Richard will monitor this.

PE5, Recycling Bins: Susan had contacted Jay Baisley regarding the needed policy document. He delegated this to Joyce Longi, who indicated to Susan that she will follow up with the procurement dept. regarding bin acquisition. Unclear if this action can be completed in time; Susan indicated to them that, regardless of points, the task force would like the town to move ahead on this front.

PE5, Resource Recovery Center: Susan will revise and resubmit under PE5 as suggested as well as pursue EP suggestions as follows.

(EP) (We need to explain the curbside pickup program in more detail.) You can earn 4 points for curbside pickup yard waste program (with pick-up at least two times a year). The information you've uploaded to the Resource Recovery Center action seems to me to be acceptable for 2 points under the Residential Organic Waste action for drop off yard waste. I think you may also be eligible for 4 more points for a curbside pickup yard waste program since the town Highway Dept. website says "It also operates a seasonal Transfer Station for town residents at our 8 Burnett Boulevard location and a curbside Leaf Pickup schedule in the fall. The Transfer station and Leaf Pickup schedules will be posted on our website well before the starting dates." I am not sure if "in the fall" means each resident gets their yard waste picked up at least twice. If you can clarify this, you should be eligible for 6 pts total. Check the links! The Transfer station link was broken for me. Also note that the highway dept. page was where I saw the curbside leaf pickup note and that is what potentially gets you to 6 points.

PE6, Natural Resources Inventory: \*priority action (one more needed) - MJ Engineering, NRI/Open Space Plan consultant, has committed to provide draft NRI in time for resubmission. It is understood that this will be a draft until the Board adopts it at the conclusion of the full project. We can get most of the points without adoption.

PE6, Planning and Infrastructure: Kristen will pursue revision/code.

(EP)(Suggests that photos of the roundabouts are crucial, also suggests that we include related invoices.) From the reviewer, "The submission includes a reference to the Raymond Ave roundabouts, but no photos were provided. I am not sure if it would suffice, but it is worth taking pictures of the roundabouts to see if you'll get 3 points for this. Have any other sidewalks been fixed/redone recently? If so, it may be worth working with your highway dept to take pictures of those sidewalks and get bills/plans/other info?"

PE6, Comp Plan: this requires formal Board adoption - since the public meeting is on 6/9, it is not expected to go to the Board until at least July and will not be ready in time.

PE6, Unified Solar Permit: there has been movement thanks to the Building Dept. being on board and acknowledging that the updated permit template is essentially the same as the one currently in force. Ann is working to bring this to the Board mid-June. We have provided the template permit as well as the template resolution. This is a CEC action and must then be uploaded to the CEC portal. An acknowledgement of that submission should be rapid; however, it is unclear how long NYSERDA approval might take, and the latter piece is what is needed to submit for CSC.

(EP) Submit to CSC regardless of NYSERDA approval status.

PE7, Conserve Natural Areas: Kristen can explore revision

(EP) If this area was gifted to the town this action probably won't work.

PE8, Farmers' Market: Susan is updating action with 2021 information.

PE8, Solar for All Community campaign: it has been exceedingly difficult to get sign-ups. Danielle Salisbury (Cornell Cooperative Extension) and Susan started tabling at the Arlington Farmers' Market earlier today. Danielle has had difficulty getting in contact with, or getting a positive response from, apartment complex managers. We have provided info to various food pantries, and through the interfaith community. Additional suggestions include senior housing and trailer park locations, we are pursuing all of these. Danielle will contact NYSERDA liaison to find out about direct sign ups; she is also looking into extension of the campaign since CCE will renew its contract. Even if not completed for CSC 7/2, we should still try to finish the campaign since it's a high impact action that could result in an action grant through CEC Leadership Round.

PE9, Public Events: Susan is updating action with recent events to keep it current.

PE9, Website: the town finally launched its new site, Susan was trained and committed to updating our page in time for resubmission.

PE9, Social Media: Susan is updating action with recent posts.

PE9, Education & Engagement Plan: \*priority action - template plan was provided late May by Cornell course as promised. Susan has finished the template with Town info and sent it to Jay with request for Board adoption as required. Ann is supporting this for the upcoming board meeting.

PE INNOVATION: CAPI info will be moved to PE1 as suggested but will not result in additional points there.

PE INNOVATION: Pollinator Pathway info will be moved to PE1 partnerships or PE9 Education as suggested, Education may be more likely for points.

Next meeting: July 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm (location or virtual TBA - we await feedback from the Town regarding updated meeting policies)

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht