

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



July 1, 2021 at 7:00 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
Ann Shershin
Joan Freeman
Richard Levine

We reviewed and then submitted our updated application for initial certification:

We took a detailed look at all of the actions that have been revised and/or updated since our January submission. The application was also reviewed by Michelle Gluck at CCEDC and Eleanor Peck at HVRC and their suggestions incorporated. Should all actions be approved, we would exceed the required number of points and priority actions and be well on our way to the next level. It will take several weeks to receive a response, but all agreed that an enormous amount has been accomplished regardless of certification status. This was an exciting milestone.

As part of this review we took a look at the revised web page at

<https://www.townofpoughkeepsie.com/254/Climate-Smart-Task-Force-CSTF>

Discussion of areas for focus following this milestone and relevant roles:

Actions already in the pipeline that will result in significant points include:

- CAPI Dutchess (inventories and climate action plan)
- Unified Solar Permit (also for Clean Energy Communities)
- Comprehensive Plan with sustainability elements (coming to the Board later this month)
- Completion of NRI and Open Space Plan and adoption of relevant law (end 2021)
- Solar for All Community Campaign (also for Clean Energy Communities, action grant) - Danielle Salisbury and Susan have been working on marketing this, and Danielle determined that the end date can be extended indefinitely; i.e. once we have 25 participants we can submit the action but also continue to sign up residents going forward.

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With the application completed we would like to turn our attention back to an EV charging infrastructure event for our business community, possibly in the fall. Joan continues to have a keen interest on this front.

Tom expressed interest in the Hudson 7, and Susan will reach out to our representatives there to ask if he can participate. Thanks again to Tom for his contribution on the related action.

In addition to these members, Susan expressed gratitude to Kristen for her effective work in liaising with the town staff on various actions, to Richard for his work on the fleet inventory, and to Ann for being our voice at the Board.

Upcoming events:

Lunch & Learn at the Senior Center 7/8/21 - Susan will present a simple overview of Climate Smart and CAC with highlights on the Solar for All campaign and Pollinator Pathway. The Center hopes to install a pollinator garden. Ann will provide lunch, and the signups are robust. This is the first L&L event since reopening.

Arlington Street fair 9/18/21 - we will need representation at a table shared with CAC (Susan will be out of town).

Next meeting:

August 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm (returning to Town Hall, room TBA)

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht