



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze



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

August 4, 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

Feza Oktay

Ann Shershin

Thomas Lynch

Joan Freeman

Stanley Merritt

Status of proposals for NYSERDA CEC grants:

- Designation Grant (\$5000) - regarding our proposal with the Green Business Bureau, members of the Town Board have expressed a preference for using the grant to cover full first-year memberships rather than a percentage. This would cover somewhat fewer memberships (about 25 given the smallest business size). However, it might speed up participation, and these businesses would still have to invest time and effort in doing the program. We are amenable to this change if we can resolve this concern from the Board and move forward. Susan will contact GBB representatives to discuss editing the proposal.

- Action Grant (\$15,000) - Tommy Colgan, head of the Water Dept., is interested in the Ford E-Transit van if financially feasible with the grant and incentives. Feza had done some initial investigation and will follow up by calling the dealers to inquire about the potential for discounts when going through the NYS procurement system. Feza provided this link to the state purchasing system, we do not have credentials to place a bid but can look around: <https://ogs.ny.gov/procurement/vehicle-buyers>

Tommy is also very interested in the possibility of a solar array for the main (Fairview) pumping station, which currently costs a fortune in electricity annually (\$130,000 at minimum). He provided some information about annual usage: 845,000 kilowatt hours for 2021 and 513,975 kilowatt hours for 2022 thus far. We discussed finding out what solar installers did local large arrays (Cary Institute, Oakwood School, Poughkeepsie Day School) in order to reach out for estimates. Susan will follow up with those vendors. She will also inquire via the CSC list serve to find out what other municipalities

have done. Ann will follow up with Tommy regarding next steps. He has already arranged for the Engineering Dept. to take a look at the location to discuss feasibility. It's important that both rooftop and ground arrays be considered.

Launch of CAPI Dutchess: At long last we have a start date in September (tentative, with a backup date in October) for the initial meeting. The CAPI team for the town includes Susan Karnes Hecht and Richard Levine from CSTF and Kristen Taylor from staff - at Jay Baisley's suggestion Kristen will serve as lead/point person. Jay along with Mike Welti are also on the communication list.

Given this launch as well as potential projects above and the existing grant for chargers at Town Hall, Susan plans to update our action planning list to show possible points in the pipeline. Also noted that an EV, chargers, or an array, even if acquired with grant support, can still be counted for additional CSC and in some cases CEC points.

We briefly discussed the recent issues that occurred with the first community aggregation related to the supplier, Columbia, and how this event may color viewpoints on Community Choice Aggregation.

Arlington Street Fair 9/17/22: We now have beautiful banners for CSTF and CAC with our logos, we have various tables and pop up tents available, and Susan has finished updating the CSTF brochure. Please let her know if you can spend any time at our table that day. Feza suggested that the CSTF members might want T-shirts and we should look at local options such as Branding Pros or Millmans. Susan will ask CCEDC for materials and swag. Feza will contact Healey to explore the idea of an EV for display/test drives either around this event or at another time.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 7 pm

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht