

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



August 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Joan Freeman
Stanley Merritt
Richard Levine
Thomas Lynch
Katherine Espinosa (by Zoom)

Meetings status:

Susan shared the information that she was given regarding current status of the Open Meetings Law: that the NYS executive order allowing virtual meetings has expired at this time, and committee members are required to attend in person (while staff and public may attend virtually). Several members have expressed concerns about pandemic safety and feel that we are able to conduct our business effectively on Zoom. Susan plans to contact the Town Supervisor to inquire about the application of the rule to volunteers.

Update on July resubmission to Climate Smart Communities and ongoing actions towards next certification level:

- Expected response date 8/27 based on application cycle info on CSC site.
- NRI/Open Space Plan is proceeding according to schedule with the final NRI in development and public survey results being incorporated into draft OSP.
- Comprehensive Plan is expected to come to the Town Board shortly with opportunity for public comment. We would like to know if the Plan includes language supporting EV infrastructure.
- CAPI Dutchess - Dutchess County is collecting MOUs from participating towns and uploading it into the Grants Gateway, the last step needed to begin the contract process with DEC/NYS. If all continues according to plan we hope to start CAPI meetings in the fall.
- Susan was contacted by Micah Kenfield, Sustainability Coordinator at Vassar College. Coming this year: a Campus & Community Resilience Assessment. This assessment helps identify how well the college and the surrounding Poughkeepsie area could adjust to climate change impacts as well as opportunities for possible collaboration/mutual support. This would fall under PE7. Susan identified us as an interested stakeholder and awaits further updates.
- Clean Energy Communities actions and potential benefits: The NYSEERDA scorecard shows that we have been approved for both Unified Solar Permit and LED Lights actions. According to our liaison, Eleanor Peck:

- Poughkeepsie is listed as having 43K people, a large population jurisdiction and eligible for a \$50K grant if NYStretch Code is adopted.
- With the USP (200 pts), LED lights (700-900 pts) Solar Campaign (200 pts and \$15K grant), and CSC Bronze (600 pts) that equals 1700-1900 pts. NYStretch would result in another \$50K and point-based eligibility for another \$30K grant. NYStretch would need to be passed before the end of the year, assuming grants remain.
 - Unified Solar Permit (completed, approved) (also for CSC)
 - LED Lights (completed, approved) (previously approved for CSC)
 - NYStretch Code (in discussion) - Susan shared concepts of the Stretch Code and reported on a very informative meeting 8/4 with NYSERDA code rep, Susan, Ann Shershin, and Mike Welti. The current plan is to continue this discussion with Building Dept. in early fall.
 - Solar for All campaign (ongoing)

Report from Hudson 7 (H7):

Tom attended the July meeting and shared the following:

- Looking at dam on Fallkill on Creek Rd. by DCC to decide repair or remove.
- Dutchess and Ulster applying to do new NRIs with emphasis on water resource mapping and source water protection.
- They had reps from Central Hudson at the meeting re: remediation above Fallkill where an old gasification plant dumped spoils into the river, they are discussing what to do - dredging was tried unsuccessfully.
- In addition, a Champlain-Hudson power cable is desired which would involve a trench in the riverbed; a dredging test showed that intake valves could be impacted.
- RISE project for cabling in the river is a separate project being examined.
- Esopus Creek sediment problem - NYS releasing turbulent water linked to Ashokan Reservoir, this goes into Hudson which is affecting H7 communities.

There was so much to be discussed that they did not reach the salt front topic on the agenda; Tom would like to see a higher priority placed on this. By 2100 sea level rise will impact our region - this will happen gradually and create very serious problems.

Planning for Arlington Street Fair:

CSTF and CAC will share a table and we will need a schedule to staff it. Susan will reach out to Pam Kingsley, CAC Chair, regarding planning. Susan is unable to be at the Fair but plans to coordinate materials in advance. In addition to CAC and CSTF materials, she will inquire about displays available from Cornell.

Next meeting: September 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht