

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



September 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall

Meeting was accessible online at:

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

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair (in person)

Ann Shershin (in person)

Joan Freeman (online)

Thomas Lynch (online)

Richard Levine (online)

Meeting format

Although we have access to the town's large meeting room, there continues to be concern about Covid safety with in-person meetings given that our business can easily be conducted in online format.

Update on July resubmission to Climate Smart Communities and ongoing actions

The scheduled response date of 8/27 that is stated in the NYSCSC portal has come and gone without indication of when a final response will be given. New comments are posted. Several new/revised actions have been approved. We have more than enough points for Bronze certification but are still waiting for a response to the PE6 NRI action. There appears to be an issue with the documents uploaded for PE9 Education/Engagement Plan action, as the reviewers are seeing duplicates of the same document, although two different documents were submitted (the Plan itself and the Board resolution adopting it). Michelle Gluck has reached out on our behalf and we await feedback. We also note that the Plan is clearly linked on the website, the latter has been approved. We need one of these two actions as our third required priority action for Bronze. Should the NRI be approved, we will be set and can straighten out the document issue later for a Silver submission.

The NRI/Open Space Plan will be completed late 2021. The Comprehensive Plan will be voted on by the Board in late September or early October. Both of these major actions will go towards a higher certification level, as will the Unified Solar Permit (completed) and Solar for All campaign (when completed). We await initiation of CAPI Dutchess (long delayed).

We want to move forward on the town fleet in terms of orchestrating a periodic update and starting to identify opportunities for rightsizing and EV transition. We need to organize the inventory spreadsheet to reflect old and new vehicles so as to not lose the information that shows change. Susan will ask Kristen Taylor about next steps to meet

with the Auto Dept on this front and will copy Ann and Richard. Richard wants to remain involved in this area.

Update on Clean Energy Communities high impact actions - new monthly program

Hudson Valley Regional Council just announced a Clean Energy Communities Institute, which will create a 12-month program with a monthly focus on one selected high impact action. They will provide extra resources for the selected topic to help communities get these done:

- August: Climate Smart certification support (already in place for us)
- September: NYStretch Code (this syncs well with our plan to address with Building Dept. in September - Susan will stay on this)
- October: Energy Code Enforcement Training (Susan has already broached with Town personnel)
- November: PACE Financing
(December - no topic)
- January: Clean Fleet - vehicles and chargers
- February/March: Benchmarking
- April/May: Clean Energy Upgrades
- June: Unified Solar Permit (completed)
- July: LED Streetlights (completed)

We should take advantage of these additional resources for the actions that we are planning.

Planning for EV infrastructure support event(s)

Sustainable Hudson Valley (SHV) has been asked by several towns to develop an education and group purchase program and has enlisted Healey Brothers to offer specific models. So far Marbletown, Philipstown, Beacon and Orange County are on board. SHV is are planning a launch webinar soon after Labor Day and then several EV test drives in various locations This can align with National Drive Electric Week 9/25 - 10/3. We agreed that this is an ideal opportunity to piggyback our desired efforts on this front for more impact - Susan will follow up with SHV immediately to find out how we can participate. There was also correspondence from the Beacon CSC Coordinator on this; Susan will follow up there as well.

New Yorkers for Clean Power is gathering community inputs on the sustainable transportation projects that thoughtful community members consider most important for a mapping project they are doing to support the Transportation and Climate Initiative. You can see their investment map [here](#), contribute via the form right under the map, or reach out directly to Michaela Ciovacco via mic@nyforcleanpower.org.

Arlington Street Fair

Susan is unable to attend but was planning to gather materials; Joan had volunteered to

help staff the shared CAC-CSTF table and this is greatly appreciated. However, following this meeting, a decision was reached in conjunction with CAC to withdraw from this year's fair due to Covid concerns. Although outdoors, too many individuals feel it is high risk and are not comfortable staffing the table.

Solar for All campaign

We do have some sign-ups but not 25 yet. Danielle Salisbury has contact with the person at NYSERDA who tracks these, but that individual is not really willing to provide information on how many additional applications may be in the pipeline. Food pantries continue to appear our best best for connecting with the right target population, so we need help to determine if the pantries have reopened. If so, Danielle can assist with tabling on-site. Members will follow up:

Holy Trinity - Ann

DCC - Susan will contact Katherine

Wappingers Zion - Joan

St. John - Susan

Sustainable Hudson Valley is sponsoring Climate Solutions Week: 10/17-24

A coordinated education-for-action push with support from various organizations and a media partnership with Chronogram Magazine, the week will feature dozens of events produced by community partners, an anchor symposium on regional climate action produced by SHV on 10/20, and a celebratory finale concert at the Towne Crier in Beacon on 10/24. They urge partner groups to make use of this opportunity for coordinated publicity to raise the profile of all our work. The project [website](#) is being soft-launched while partners are finalizing their events. At minimum, we can help market this via our website and social media. It would be great to find out if we can plan an EV-related event as discussed above during this time frame, and take advantage of the overall marketing.

Next meeting: October 7, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht