



**Climate Smart  
Communities**  
Certified Bronze



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

**October 6, 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  
Tom Lynch  
Ann Shershin  
Joan Freeman  
Richard Levine

Guest:

Johanna Fallert, Mothers Out Front/town resident

Potential pilot composting program/status of County Solid Waste Management Draft Plan:

Johanna provided her bio and explained that Mothers Out Front (MOF) is a non-partisan group, the climate arm of Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance. Her co-leader is Caroline Fenner, also a town resident. MOF is campaigning for Dutchess to add residential composting. This started with concern about the incinerator/pollution, then pivoted to composting since 50% of the trash going to the incinerator is compostable and 22% of it is food waste. The Division of Solid Waste Management had already published a draft plan which includes welcoming an entity to build a public composting facility, in the meantime Dutchess continues to incinerate. The plan was not well publicized (a small legal notice in the paper), past precedent had been to kick the proverbial can down the road. MOF started by soliciting public comment on the plan and requested a deadline extension, as the email contact for comment was in error. This request was denied; however, MOF then reached out to the DEC and the public comment period was extended. They also went to the DC Legislature for public comment.

Johanna stated that there is \$2 million in grant money available for this type of project. SHE met with the chair of the DC Legislature Environment Committee, Joseph Cavacinni (Wappingers) and has an ongoing exchange; she also spoke with Yvette Valdes-Smith, Minority Leader. They have been invited to see the large composting operation at McEnroe Farm in Millerton where town already takes its leaves; they are only at half of capacity.

Has also sent letters to the DC EMC keeping them posted along with other networking, etc. and it has all been productive.

Beacon completed a pilot residential composting program, Johanna provided the report to our own Town Board and attended a recent Board meeting to make introductory comments. She has scheduled a meeting with Supervisor Baisley on 10/12, and they will be joined by Amelia LeGuerre, owner of O-Zone in Red Hook and coordinator of the Rhinebeck compost pilot. The goal is to get a similar pilot in Poughkeepsie. The City of Beacon also passed a resolution in support of county infrastructure, this is an authoritative voice. Johanna would like to see our Board take a similar step. She plans to explore these topics with Supervisor Bailey as well as the inadequacies of the draft 10 year plan. Susan will forward the Beacon documents to the Task Force as background. Susan will also look for information from an earlier meeting arranged by Michelle Gluck off CCEDC (March 2021). There was also conversation about the possibility of a facility at BOCES. Susan will further look at the CSC actions for point potential. We need to explore if there are Climate Smart Grants specifically.

This area is appropriate for collaboration with our CAC and Susan will report to that group at its October 24th meeting.

Johanna also provided the following information:

Webinar series- Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Oct 27 1-2:30 pm - relevant composting topics, government support for community composting. Susan is available, Richard may be available. Susan will inquire with Supervisor Baisley if the town might cover the \$20 registration fee for us and encourage him to send a board member.

Update on submission of NYSERDA CEC grants for solar proposal:

Both grants were submitted on 10/3 and we await responses. Susan shared the workbook that was submitted and the various SunCommon documents.

Discussion of alternative approaches for Green Business initiative:

The response from GBB when informed of the Board's decision to use both grants for the solar array was very positive and supportive. They are willing to go forward with a discounted membership program in honor of CSTF, regardless. This is greatly appreciated! Susan would still like to search for alternative funding: some ideas include Rotary, Community Foundations, Dyson Foundation.

Energy Code Enforcement Training:

Ann reported that the Building Dept. is down even further on staff. We would still like someone to attend. Ann will follow up again with Mike Welti.

Arlington Street Fair:

The Fair was a huge success. Kudos and thanks to Feza Oktay for arranging the EV with Friendly Ford, it was a huge draw and a lot of public education happened. Susan followed up with written thanks to the Ford people.

Watershed actions:

Tom followed through on looking at actions under PE7 and found the following possible opportunities:

- Watershed assessment 7.10 - was just completed in June 2022 for Wappingers Creek watershed, done through a grant to the Village of Wappingers with an outside consultant and certified lab, Marist students. This was coordinated by the Wappingers Creek Intermunicipal Council, Sean Carroll was a lead and Susan will reach out to him to find out if there is point potential (Tom has a copy of the report).
- 7.1 may be a duplication
- 7.25 source water protection - Hudson7 is working on this with NYSDOH
- 7/21 culverts and dams - CCEDC doing vulnerability assessment, also looking at bridges

Tom reported that the H7 salt front advisory committee is going to try to scope out a study to model the salt front into the future.

Notes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht