



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze



**Town of Poughkeepsie Climate Smart Communities Task Force
November 3, 2022 at 7 pm**

The meeting took place on Zoom at the following link:

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

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair

Ann Shershin

Feza Oktay

Richard Levine

Joan Freeman

Thomas Lynch

(Member, Stanley Merritt, was unable to stay due to tech issues)

Guest: Bill Carlos, Ward 2 Representative to Town Board

Update on composting:

Susan has been following up with Johanna Fallert, Mothers Out Front, who was our guest last month. Johanna met with Supervisor Bailey, who in turn requested that Ward 3 Board member Anne Burger, CAC liaison, represent the Town on this matter. Johanna and Anne went on a tour of the Beacon composting pilot on 11/1 (food scrap drop-off sites, etc.). They have also discussed the project in Rhinebeck. Anne is expected to reach out to Susan as well as Pam Kingsley, CAC Chair, to discuss next steps.

Tiffin project:

This is a project that Feza saw from CSC New Paltz; he has reached out for more details but that group has not responded. Tiffins are stacked, stainless steel canisters common in India, which are readily available, and he suspects it was done as a bulk purchase in New Paltz. Use of the tiffins is encouraged in place of disposable take-out or leftovers containers for local restaurants. At a later phase, restaurants could purchase a supply so that customers could acquire for the first time when purchasing food, then use it for future pickups. There could potentially be a discount? Is input from the Health Dept. needed? More information is needed, and Feza will continue to pursue it through other Ulster contacts. See

<https://hudsonvalleyone.com/2022/02/08/reach-for-the-silver/>

Update on Energy Code Enforcement Training

Tim Sickles, Building Dept. head, is registered for December in Albany. This is a CEC High-Impact Action as well as a CSC action. Richard suggested that we should get some education on the new codes - would Tim be willing to attend one of our meetings after the training?

Update on solar proposal:

- The two CEC grant applications were approved 10/7/22.
- Total funds \$20,000 to be used towards the solar array at the Water Dept.
- The \$5,000 grant will be disbursed fairly immediately; the larger grant will be disbursed at milestone points before/after completion.
- There was a kickoff meeting on 10/20/22 with NYSERDA project manager to review the grant process - attended by Susan, Ann, Supervisor Bailey, Deputy Comptroller Jessica Servidio, and Eleanor Peck. There is a NYSERDA contract separate from the Town's agreement with the vendor, it will wind its way through the normal channels.
 - Status of SunCommon agreement: we think that additional quotes will NOT be needed since SunCommon is a certified vendor (to be confirmed). Susan has asked Supervisor Bailey to have direct contact with SunCommon to discuss contract/deposit needs. They are scheduling another visit to the Water Dept and will ideally discuss the expanded option to do all three roofs.

We should investigate if there are other grants that could support this project. Susan will start by asking our new NYSERDA/CEC rep, Mary Lambert, if she has any suggestions.

Watershed actions:

See October minutes for list of potential relevant actions provided by Tom.

- As planned Susan reached out to Sean Carroll regarding the Watershed Assessment done for Wappingers Creek, to determine if we are able to count this in any way under PE7 actions. Also asked him for more information on the culverts and dams assessment that will be done at CCEDC. (Sean is on paternity leave returning 11/14 so will await his response.)
- Follow up for more info on the other items discussed last month is still needed.

Green Business initiative:

Susan looked into Community Foundations and Dyson Foundation grants as suggested - they only grant to nonprofits and government groups are not eligible. She is sending information to Rotary and another possible resource. However, GBB remains willing to proceed with a discounted membership for Town businesses. As described by the GBB rep: "We simply promote that Green Business Certification and sustainability program management tools will elevate their brands, reduce their costs, attract new customers and employees, as they become greener. We have materials we can provide you to go with the campaign." They have a new white paper on the "ROI of Sustainability - Understanding the Business Benefits" that is a tool that could be shared with businesses. GBB would be able to provide a landing page for our site and a coupon code (which would not require the landing page). These would track back to us in the form of reports as originally planned. We need to determine if we are able to proceed with this and what kind of approval we would/would not need. Ann will provide reconnaissance on this front.

Update on Open Space Plan:

MJ Engineering, the NRI consultant, is still working on the final draft, and this will hopefully go to the Board before the end of the year.

Update on CAPI Dutchess

Start delayed until at least 11/16 - tentative date. In the meantime the project managers reached out to participating municipalities to begin data collection needed for the Government Operations Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory. This requires outreach to Central Hudson, and they will make a bulk data request on behalf of the entire group so it can be in the needed format. The required letter and information about the Town's utility account was provided to move forward with this (Kristen Taylor and Joyce Longi took care of this). Susan has asked the CAPI contact, Mary Lambert, to keep CSTF looped into any communication going forward - the CSTF needs to be aware of all steps that are occurring.

Thinking ahead of aspects of CAPI, we still need to formalize the fleet inventory update policy. Ann suggested that we speak first with the Comptroller, since that department maintains a fleet inventory in any case - although it is likely not all the same type of information that is on ours. We should also try to get a figure on the total number of gallons of gasoline used, to reduce it as an overall goal.

Report on meeting with Town Board member:

Susan received an invitation from Bill Carlos to discuss CSTF and invited Richard to join since he is a Ward 2 resident. They met on 10/24. It was felt to be very productive, and Bill has joined us tonight. Topics discussed during this informal gathering included, but were not limited to: the goals of CSC in the context of the CLCPA, a general discussion of how things happen in the Town, the need for Code training, and the need to support charging infrastructure especially with any new permits.

New business: CHPE

Bill introduced the topic of CHPE: the Champlain Hudson Power Express. We have had limited discussion of this in the past, and Tom has shared information from Hudson 7 on this front. Bill is this year's Chairman of the Joint Water Board that manages the shared water plant for the Town and City of Poughkeepsie (chair is a rotating role). He presented the following details:

- CHPE proposes to trench down the Hudson River to bring electricity from Canada to Queens, 333 miles, using a "jet plow."
- Sediment volume is expected to be the size of a football field 10 stories high in the water column; in contrast, our plant is designed to manage snowmelt and runoff and to remove the associated sediment, which is then moved to a safe area.
- Bill sees this as a direct, immediate threat to our water plant; each community along the river will be impacted in a unique way. He noted the amount of money and potential profit behind the plan and is concerned that money will win over environment.
- Core samples from the riverbed show things that are dangerous for human consumption, left there from prior projects over decades.

- Groups are fighting this plan in Albany, and he will keep us posted. There is a compelling argument to protect drinking water for H7 communities. H7 has signed on to this fight, the Joint Water Board has not yet done this formally. Tom noted that Riverkeeper, which supports H7, is on the record in opposition. See <https://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/river-ecology/champlain-hudson-power-express/> Susan wondered about Scenic Hudson and will try to find out. Susan will forward to the group Tom's prior info from H7.
- If the CHPE were to go via land, it would be a more expensive proposition due to totally different permitting needs through the various communities and private properties. If Going via water it's essentially up to the DEC.

Bill offered the CSTF members a tour of the water plant. Tentative date is 12/1, morning, to be confirmed.

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

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht