



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze



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

November 4, 2021 at 7 pm on Zoom at the following link:

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

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Stanley Merritt
Thomas Lynch
Richard Levine
Ann Shershin
Joan Freeman
Katherine Espinosa

Guest:

Feza Oktay, Ward 6 resident interested in serving on the Task Force

Certification follow-up:

- On the website “news flash”
- Received physical signs which will be installed in the town hall lobbies
- Need to update our brochure (Susan will confer with Kristen)

Review CSC/CEC spreadsheet for updated information - please review in Google Drive

- CSC actions updated, additions for new opportunities related to green fleet
- CEC information column added
- Susan contacting Michelle Gluck for assistance in determining how many points can be requested for Comprehensive Plan

EV charging infrastructure planning:

- Municipal installation - we learned coincidentally that there is a grant application for 5 Level II chargers each with 2 ports at Town Hall. Susan obtained copy of application (see Google Drive folder) from Jay Baisley and expressed to him our concern that, although this is very good news, there was a lack of communication. The planned installation should meet criteria for the CSC action and includes public access.

Questions we have: (Susan will contact Mike Welti)

- What is timeline to hear about grant?
- Will parking spaces be restricted?
- Will public pay to charge, will employees pay to charge?
- Can we obtain additional points later if more are added or in another location?
- Next steps to support business community for installation on private property
 - We can ask Jason Zimbler, NYSEERDA, for suggestions on best audience; Feza noted this is not just for obvious target businesses but also for those who wish to do the right thing towards sustainability - Joan can reach out to Jason
 - How can we best get a listing of town businesses? Ann will ask clerk/receiver if such a list exists
 - Potential item for a green business challenge
- Stanley learned that GM is providing all its dealerships with funding to install multiple chargers in their local communities which will charge GM as well as other vehicles. He will reach out to our local dealer to explore this and see if there is an opportunity for us to participate in any decision about location.

Green Fleet/Fleet Inventory:

- Richard researched model policies that were approved for other towns and highlighted Hastings as exemplary (sample is in folder on Google Drive)
- What is the appetite in the town for such a policy?
- Next step, confer with Mike Welti, show him sample and get his input (Susan will contact to arrange)

Recycling policy:

- Susan researched model policies approved in other towns and contacted Dryden and Hastings for samples (in folder on Google Drive)
- We need a complete policy i.e. there is no point in individual recycling bins in offices if everything is going into the same dumpster
- Ann spoke with Comptroller, determined that town does its own hauling and that it would be feasible to provide a separate dumpster for recyclables - Susan will ask Kristen to contact Hwy Supt re: the hauling arrangements
- Ann suggested we also speak with cleaning person to facilitate placement of bins (note that purchase would need to be documented in addition to policy)
- Jay Baisley notified Susan that town hall has acquired shredding service/bins

Solar campaign status:

- We have connected with two of the food pantries (DCC, with assistance from Katherine, and Zion with assistance from Joan) and are tabling at both locations this week and next; we continue to push this effort towards fruition in order to be positioned for CEC leadership round grants which overlaps CSC action.
- Ann continues to work on getting into additional pantry at Holy Trinity.

Energy Code Enforcement Training:

- The town did not send anyone to the fall training. Ann reported that it was felt to be too far (Goshen). We need to emphasize the importance of planning to attend a spring training. This is also a high impact CEC action in the leadership round overlapping CSC action.
- Susan will ask Eleanor Peck for spring dates/locations and if there is a particular number of town staff required to attend for this action

Report on Open Space Plan stakeholder meetings:

- Tom and Susan attended meetings in mid-October. Tom described it as primarily brainstorming about the future of various spaces. Susan's meeting was focused on existing park spaces and the need to budget for parks dept to have more staff to improve the parks.

CSTF member terms:

- Our original terms expired in July 2021
- Ann has requested that renewal be on the 11/17/21 Board agenda and that Feza be appointed to the group at that time; she will follow up with submitting his resume

Next meeting: normally scheduled for 12/2/21. In lieu of the December meeting, all Task Force members are requested to attend the final public workshop for the Open Space Plan at 7:30 pm on Zoom (meeting information TBA). Regular meeting schedule will resume 1/6/22.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht