



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

**October 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM  
First Floor Conference Room, Town Hall**

Present: Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair  
Katherine Espinosa  
Richard Levine  
Ann Shershin  
Beverly Santero  
Michelle Gluck

Update on Dutchess County Climate Smart Task Force

Two of our members (Richard Levine, Stan Merritt) attended the 10/2 DCCSTF meeting. Michelle Gluck also reported on the County's status. Highlights were shared:

- The County recently achieved bronze level certification (having taken the Pledge in 2009 and created a Task Force in 2018). The DC EMC assisted with a basic assessment, and Cornell worked on submissions. They plan to continue moving forward and discussed support for municipalities, funding for communities working together. They wish to keep the momentum going, the task force will evolve, personnel are committed.
  - We reiterated that the Town will participate in the Climate Assessment Planning Institute with other municipalities within Dutchess (with county as lead), to assess emissions. The grant to support CAPI has been submitted, and the expectation is that this work would begin in early 2020. Richard will continue to monitor and engage in this aspect of the pledge. He asked, if a GHG inventory is started, will they start to take actions immediately? Will they fund the actions if expensive, will there be money in the budget? The first step is documenting.
  - The County is proud of the solar array at the airport, which will save over 50% of the County's electric bill.
    - LED lighting was essentially covered by grants and assistance from Central Hudson.
    - The County is starting a vehicle study to support fleet right-sizing and use.
    - When getting bids the County will now include recycling issues.
    - Red Hook solar plan - giving money back to residents and town - on town property.
- Red hook also received bronze certification.
- Discussion of increasing outreach especially to vulnerable populations. EMC hoping to increase social media outreach.

Report on participation in Arlington Street Fair

Susan created a Climate Smart/CAC display and it was set up in the town booth at the Street Fair on 9/20. The weather was great, and there was a huge turnout. There were a few conversations and names collected for CAC. This was probably not the most opportune setting or audience, but it was a great start to get ourselves out in public. Jay Baisley suggested that we should have our own tent next time, which would increase our visibility and

attract individuals with this interest rather than being mixed in with the other town displays. Susan will try to get a photo of the display added to our web page.

### Continued discussion re: Climate Smart Assessment

We discussed the differences between the Planning Tool (which is a specific action on the checklist for which we will receive credit and assesses existing policy/structure related to climate mitigation/adaptation) vs. the Assessment being guided by Michelle (which delves much more deeply to gather information related to specific pledge elements and actions. We discussed a number of the pledge elements and how we can go about getting the specifics needed.

- Michelle plans to meet with Jay Baisley and Mike Welti and go through the actions to gather more information. This should be a very straightforward discussion which will enlighten us on many of the actions or tell us where to go for the needed information. She will let Susan know when this meeting is scheduled, if feasible Susan would like to listen.
- Ann and Susan will confer regarding resource in the town to learn more about the procurement policy (it seems that there is a policy regarding maximum that can be spent without board approval, but we need to learn if there are any policies concerning environmentally conscious ordering of materials).
- Katherine is interested in improving our web page for public education and will consider Ideas.
  - Issues related to Pledge Element 7, Resilience, intersect with the CAC and Susan will be able to provide information. Examples of areas where we can work with the CAC include the ongoing Natural Resources Inventory/Open Space Plan, afforestation, etc.
  - Some of us received the Main Street Redesign survey which touches on relevant issues; Susan will send this info to Michelle.
  - Susan will re-send the sample Red Hook Certification Assessment to the committee to help us understand this initial goal.
  - Susan would like the group to become conversant with Community Choice Aggregation in order to be able to have an informed discussion on this topic. She has the contact to set up a presentation, but we agreed that this is not our first priority.

Next meeting: November 7, 2019 at 7 pm

The November meeting will be a focused completion of the assessment checklist.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht