



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

**November 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Supervisor's Conference Room, Town Hall**

Present: Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Richard Levine
Ann Shershin
Beverly Santero
Michelle Gluck
Stanley Merritt
Joan Freeman
Kristen Taylor

Committee business:

- Joan was welcomed to the group and brief introductions made.
- Congratulations to Kristen on her recent marriage; her change of last name was noted.
- Susan will reach out to another member who has not yet been able to attend.

Update on Climate Smart Planning Tool and tentative plan for presentation to Town Board:

● We looked in detail at the current version of the Planning Tool (completing this is a specific action, 7.3 of the overall CSC program). Background: the Tool was developed by the DEC/HREP staff based on one created in NJ shortly after Hurricane Sandy. Looking at it in detail was very helpful to the group in understanding its content and purpose and how it relates to the overall CSC program. Sections concerning Town function which are reviewed in the context of climate:

- Community plan checklist
- Vulnerability and risk assessment
- Public outreach
- Plan integration
- Preparedness and recovery
- Hazard mitigation

- Kristen and Michelle met recently with Mike Welti and Jay Baisley to help finish the Tool.

Michelle is completing the Tool with outreach as needed to Town personnel. Some content was also obtained from the recent Climate Resiliency Building workshop in which the Town participated. The Tool can now be finalized and a recommendations summary developed.

Recommendations follow each section of the Tool and are customized; we looked at the draft document. Aiming for December or January to present to the Town Board. It is important to read and understand the document and to be at the meeting if possible (the group will be notified when scheduled).

- How will we prioritize potential actions? Ann recommended that the Board will need us to demonstrate leadership on this; she suggested that it is best to present a high priority list with a limited number of initial actions.
- Richard requested that we develop a guide to the endless relevant acronyms which we can also put on our web page. Susan will start this document on Drive and share it, Task Force Members please add content ideas, including acronyms which you are unable to define, and we'll develop this resource.

Working session to complete Climate Smart Assessment:

- We worked through the entire checklist which correlates directly to the CSC program. This was considered a major accomplishment for the evening. The checklist was moved into our shared folder on Google Drive. By popular request, Susan will re-send the link to our folder to the group.
- Richard asked if we have done action 7.1 resiliency assessment? Michelle noted that we will get partial points for having participated in the resiliency workshop.
- We are beginning to gather some documents that will be relevant for certification. Susan will establish folders on Drive for each Pledge Element to provide a storage location. Documents obtained tonight will be scanned and uploaded.
- We discussed the overarching concept of overall Town policy going forward needing to take climate into account across all town departments. We discussed that there can be a disconnect with existing code and that this is a process that will occur over time.

Next meeting: December 5, 2019 at 7 pm

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht