



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

**December 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM  
First Floor Conference Room, Town Hall**

Present: Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair  
Katherine Espinosa  
Ann Shershin  
Joan Freeman  
Bev Santoro

Review final draft of recommendations summary from the Climate Smart Planning Tool

The final draft of the Planning Tool Summary & Recommendations was submitted to the Town Supervisor and Director of Municipal Development by Michelle Gluck in preparation for presentation to the Board. The draft was shared with the Task Force with the understanding that it is not yet to be shared outside of the group or placed in our online folder. Date for the presentation to be confirmed (December or January) and will be shared when known.

There was a consensus among those present that we should focus on recommendations that relate directly to initial certification. Several of these are highlighted in the draft. We agreed that, following presentation to the board, we will return to the list and further prioritize these. The Planning Tool itself is a specific action towards certification.

Prioritize Climate Smart actions based on current assessment checklist

We continued to examine the Certification Assessment that is in process with Michelle. The Assessment is also going to culminate in a written summary with recommendations (we looked at the summary that was completed for Red Hook as an example). We all find the checklist to be a long and complex document and discussed various approaches to sorting/filtering the information to assist us with understanding and prioritizing actions. To this end, we looked at a file created by Bev in which she sorted mandatory/priority actions and pledge elements into different groups in order to be able to look at them more easily. We also looked at options for filtering the original spreadsheet. Bev also added some columns to her file that she felt would be helpful in the decision process. This separate document was added to our group folder on Google Drive so that all can study it. We need to work from a single spreadsheet, but some of this information would be helpful; ideally we need to find a way to merge the two, likely

after the formal summary is completed. We can copy, leave the original intact, and create our needed working document.

Susan created a summary of points of intersection between the CAC and Task Force, for the last CAC meeting, and shared it with this group also. There are actions that the CAC is already pursuing, particularly the Natural Resources Inventory, and areas that it is likely to pursue after the NRI is completed. These will count towards certification but will not need to be taken up separately by the Task Force. Susan will continue to report between the groups to maintain this communication. The summary has been added to our folder for all to reference.

#### Propose ideas for community engagement

Susan started the requested “glossary” of climate-related terms and would like everyone to contribute to it. It was placed in our folder, please peruse it and add items even if you don’t have a definition. Eventually we’d like to provide this to the public as an educational tool.

We discussed developing our presence in the community beyond the web page.

Joan suggested that, following the Board meeting at which the Planning Tool is presented, this could be a subject of one of the public email blasts along with some information about the Task Force and links. In general, the email system gives us one avenue of outreach.

Bev noted that it’s desirable to have communications include the complete gist of information, rather than simply links to other sites and documents, to make it easier for readers.

Other ideas include: the Town TV channel, the Poughkeepsie Journal and Southern Dutchess News (possibly get an article timed with Earth Day), and social media. We are unclear if any Town departments use Facebook, Twitter, or other platforms but will explore this. Any social media would need to have a very clear content policy. We talked about the need to use different engagement tools to reach different demographics. We’d also like to develop a display in the Town Hall Lobby, perhaps in partnership with the CAC. Susan will reach out to Jay Baisley to discuss what might be feasible in this overall arena and communicate with CAC. Additional placements for information include the Senior Center and the public library. Bev has information about the latter.

Next meeting:            January 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm  
   Scheduled presentation on Community Choice Aggregation

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht