



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

**March 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM  
First Floor Conference Room, Town Hall**

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair  
Ann Shershin  
Joan Freeman  
Kristen Taylor  
Bev Santero  
Richard Levine  
Michelle Gluck

Review of 2/19/20 presentation to Town Board:

Michelle made a brief presentation to the Board of the completed Climate Smart Planning Tool and Climate Smart Certification Assessment. She provided each Board Member with a packet of information. They were interested and wanted more time to read the information and learn about the NYS Climate Smart program. Although the Board voted on the Climate Smart Pledge and Resolution previously, most are not familiar with the details of the program. They were directed to our website which links to the NYS website. There is a desire to have the Task Force return later in the year to report on progress. At that time we would have various members participate in a presentation, develop slides, etc.

Report from 2020 DCEMC Roundtable:

Susan attended the annual Roundtable on 2/25. Numerous municipalities reported on actions being taken by CACs and Climate Smart groups, in some cases these are the same group. Notable highlights:

- Our town is demonstrating leadership in pursuing certification; Red Hook and Dover are certified.
- There is an existing CAC list serv; Susan requested that they establish a parallel group for Climate Smart groups to communicate more effectively.

- Introduction of Dutchess SUPPP: Dutchess Single-Use Plastic Pollution Prevention Campaign by Michelle. This is grant-based and is intended for collaboration with municipalities. We will be able to utilize these resources to further educate the community on issues and reduction. There are resources for tabling, cleanup events, implementing bag ban, etc. The county has a recycling coordinator available for consultation and “Recycle Right” campaign materials. There will be two workshops for local businesses to discuss and collaborate, e.g. about using alternative products or compostables. Susan reserved the display for the next Arlington Street Fair. (There is an issue with the scheduling for 2020 as the selected date falls on Rosh Hashanah.) Pledge Element 5, Waste Reduction Educational Campaign. It can go on our intended social media.

Initiate discussion of tasks/roles for submittal process:

We now pivot into the submittal process. NYS portal access was already provided (Kristen, Michelle, Susan). The task of gathering town documents should be limited to Kristen, Michelle, Susan, and Ann. Kristen, as staff liaison, can bridge the gap to dept. heads if needed. Beverly would like to assist with identifying items needed for documentation and any needed writing. Next step: Next step Kristen and Michelle will confer regarding what’s needed and come back to us with a more specific list of items/tasks.

Continue discussion of implementing prioritized actions and individual roles:

- CAPI Dutchess: Richard continues to be interested in participating. Susan will look into adding Beverly to webinar. Kristen will contact Joyce Longi to see if there is a room available to view as a group (\*please note, the Town Hall was closed by the date of the event).
- EV infrastructure for workplaces - private spaces: Joan reported on the second webinar in this series. A lot of it was repetition of the first one, including the Charge to Work NY rebate program, NYS property tax incentives. A funding example was given. Our next step is to organize an informational event - we need to brainstorm target audience, etc. Joan will outline a proposal. We should become more familiar with sustainability elements in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Trees for Tribes: it is now unclear if the town is applying for the grant this year. Regardless, we can encourage landowners to apply for “buffer in a bag” for people living along a stream, look at Trees for Tribes web page for info. Ann will liaise with Tom Meyering (Parks Dept.) on this. Susan will go back to the CAC and look into

asking Nate Nardi-Cyrus at HREP if they have a resource showing likely areas for planting.

- Publicity outlets: Although she was unable to attend tonight, Katherine Espinosa provided the following information from DCC's Service Learning Program. This is a great way for us to engage the community.

The Service Learning students can assist us in the fall. Katherine will meet with the supervisor prior to the start of the semester to go over the details. The more vision we have for the logo, the more information students have to help make a useful product. It takes about 3 weeks. Logos are usually one of the first projects. How it works:

Our rep visits the class to introduce the group and ideas.  
We review designs in progress to make sure on target.  
We do a final review and request final, small alterations.  
We pick our logo.

Having someone come to the class in person really helps. It is also good practice for the students to speak directly with "clients." Having a point person for our group will be best, rather than design by committee.

NRI update: Susan reported that we await the response to RFP for the town to select a professional consultant to work with the CAC on bringing this project to fruition.

LED lights: Ann asked if we need an accounting of all the street lights including those that were not changed to LED? She will work on getting this additional info, also about also interior lighting

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Next meeting: April 2, 2020

\* In lieu of our regularly scheduled April meeting, Task Force members are invited to attend the public workshop being presented by the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC) at the Senior Center, 14 Abe's Way, from 7- 9 pm. Please note that we have two members who also serve on the CPRC. For those who are unable to attend, the workshop will also be presented on Monday, 3/30 at the Boardman Road Branch Library, 141 Boardman Road, from 7 - 9 pm. Attending this event will be very helpful in building a bridge between the two Town endeavors as they relate to the sustainability

elements required by the plan. The workshops are primarily focused on gathering public input to support the vision and goals of the plan.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht