



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

**February 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM
First Floor Conference Room, Town Hall**

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Kristen Taylor
Joan Freeman
Michelle Gluck
Ann Shershin
Stanley Merritt
Katherine Espinosa
Beverly Santoro

Committee business:

- Update on Climate Smart Certification Assessment (scheduled for presentation to Town Board 2-19-20): An updated action checklist was published January 2020. Michelle reviewed the completed assessment. Susan uploaded 4 documents to Google Drive (spreadsheets and narratives for Planning Tool and Assessment). Submittal cycles are January, April, July - we cannot submit until 120 points in place but can upload documentation in preparation.
- Update on CAPI Dutchess: This is a 16 month process to begin this spring. Susan reported that Town Supervisor Jay Baisley has not yet confirmed town personnel to participate. Susan learned from Europa McGovern at the HV Regional Council that there will be a webinar with all participating communities/primary contacts in late March, to review the project scope and timeline, as well as the government energy data collection piece that can be started, and then the monthly working group meetings are tentatively scheduled to start in May.
- Action 1.5, joining a regional program: Susan researched, all reflect hefty fees - what is the benefit to the town? The two most likely appear to be:
 - Clean Energy Communities: some shared actions - including NYSERDA Energy Code Enforcement Training - Susan checking with building dept. for documentation of who attended and when, as this is a separate action for points under PE3. Kristen can assist in obtaining the documentation; this is a great example of her role

as a town liaison as we move into submittal stage. The town dept. heads meet monthly - Susan will ask Jay to raise their awareness of our process and potential needs.

- ICLEI: CAPI Dutchess will use their program for the inventory and plan; we need to find out if county is already a member - are we then members also? Susan can ask Europa McGovern.

The Town participates in a large number of groups, we need to find out if any of these will qualify for this action (including MS4, Hudson 7, Wappingers watershed, other groups with Fishkill, lower Hudson Valley, etc.); this may also related to another action item that reflects partnering.

- Trees for Tribes grant: Jay reported to Susan that this is in process; it's an ideal undertaking for the CAC and she will liaise with them on this point; she also asked CAC to look at composting bin projects going forward.
- Update from Susan's meeting with Supervisor Baisley (1-31-20) concerning publicity/marketing: An extremely productive and supportive meeting which brought us the following information to assist in developing a multi-pronged approach:

Website: Mark Fink, IT, leaving his position tomorrow, has already distributed existing tasks to other personnel (posting minutes/agendas, updates to web page). Jay expressed a desire to outsource website to professional web consultant in the near future in order to upgrade this area. If this comes to fruition, there would ideally be the opportunity to manage our own web page with their support.

Social media: Town does not have a formal media policy. Jay maintains a Facebook page for TOP Supervisor - separate from personal. We have permission for CSTF, CAC to do the same. Content must be appropriate such as notices of our work and posting/cross-posting of relevant events, informational but not controversial. Look at his page for example, he is available to look at any items that need a second opinion.

Brochures/flyers: we are welcome to place information on the existing displays outside of the Clerk's and Assessor's offices and at the Senior Center. Brochures are printed by the county, they can do for us if we design it. Jay suggested calling local high school art departments within the town (Spackenkill, Arlington, Ketcham), Susan thought possibly a contest? This collaboration could also function to increase our profile. We could do something simple in the meantime. Katherine has access

to the DCC Service Learning program, a form of civic engagement at DCC which is elective or can be a course requirement. She suggested that the graphic design students could design a logo. We all thought this a great idea. Katherine will contact the coordinator at DCC to discuss. (Michelle noted that the same students are doing design for some programs based at Cornell Cooperative Extension.)

We can also give info to Tom Meyering (Recreation) to include in his newsletter. They do a "Lunch & Learn" at the senior center and would likely welcome us. Susan will contact the scheduler and see about sending newsletter info.

Newspapers: Jay provided permission to reach out to Journal, Southern Dutchess News, etc. for article. Also invite to 2/19 board meeting. Susan will provide Jay with info about what will be presented, they will do a press release - overall theme to be that the town is taking a step forward.

Jay in agreement that we could present at Committee of the Whole later in 2020.

Susan conferred with the Town of Dover task force chair who is also their town clerk - great resource on media questions, interested in working together on future projects. Made the contact through the DC EMC list serv for CACs. Susan will forward info regarding the annual Roundtable event on 2/26 and plans to attend.

- Presentation of information on EV infrastructure and discussion of next steps in this area: Susan, Joan, and Richard listened to a very informative webinar focused on EV charging stations in public locations (e.g. government buildings). There will be a companion webinar focused on private locations which has been postponed until 2/13. Joan summarized what we learned. The presentation was sponsored by the NYSERDA Charge to Work NY program and discussed ways to advance sustainable workplaces. We heard from 2 partners that install stations:

- Charge Point - provides equipment, installation, software, network, discussed considerations in the decision process. Joan is a member of Charge Point due to having a personal EV, she and Richard made contact following the webinar.

- Plug-in Stations Online - PISO - did installation at Cary Institute, presentation was more focused on installations.

We also heard from someone at Cary Institute and NYS Bridge Authority about their experiences installing charging stations. This stimulated employees to buy EVs, increased their attractiveness as a potential employer. They showed different types

of installations and discussed considerations of site, energy resource, signage, and so on. There is funding right now!

We envision offering workshops on this topic to local businesses, open to the public as well. We want to bring info to the Town Board on this, can NYSEERDA provide data, relevant info? Initial approach should not be about sales but rather about vision, concepts, funding. Ann wondered if this could be incorporated into some large projects coming into the town. It also feeds into the sustainability elements of the Comprehensive Plan and eventually into code - Ann and Kristen are on the Comp Plan group and will pursue. Joan will work on NYSEERDA in terms of obtaining info to start to shape this effort. There was sustained interest in this area overall in terms of potential priority action.

Next meeting: March 5, 2020

We expect to report on action items above and to begin discussion of tasks for submittal process.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht