



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

**June 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM
on Zoom online platform**

Task Force members present:

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

Guest:

Danielle Salisbury, Environment and Energy Resource Educator, Cornell
Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County

Solarize campaign: Presentation by Danielle Salisbury

This was an opportunity for the Task Force to clarify details and ask questions about the proposed Solar for All (S4A) campaign (see May minutes), then make a decision about next steps. Danielle showed a short video from NYSERDA which describes community solar in general. She gave a brief PowerPoint presentation also from NYSERDA, about Solar for All. Clarified that the program does cover the cost that the household would normally pay to the community solar provider; it is a utility bill assistance program. In this proposed project, power would come from Underhill Farm in the town, which has a private owner. A certain portion was set aside for S4A and there is still plenty of room to accommodate the minimum number of participants that would be required. (Joan asked if that farm is also available for non S4A users - one can go to NYSERDA site and enter zip code to see a list of local providers.)

To complete the S4A campaign you have to complete a scoping document as if the town were completing it for Clean Energy Communities (CEC). The campaign starts when NYSERDA approves the project.

Updated info: we will require 25 participants (not 10 as originally stated) based on current town population size. Danielle would do education and outreach, support applicants, we would support with outreach ideas. This could be somewhat harder during COVID19. Members asked how many would be likely to qualify? We would use resources from census etc. that show income levels - Danielle feels a couple thousand households could qualify. Ann mentioned specific affordable housing developments that are likely places to do outreach. Stan suggested that we can work with Community Action to reach those with

HEAP, etc. Joan suggested outreach through religious organizations; similarly, Susan has a connection with the Interfaith Council.

Town involvement: we would need to document official approval by providing proof of how information is published to residents, but don't need a formal board resolution. Susan and Ann will reach out to the Supervisor to discuss the proposal.

Task Force brochure: we reviewed the updated version that Bev provided and made further edits (swap the columns on the second page to be chronological; change orange to another color; include an edition date). Possible distribution sites: Senior Center, Farmers Market, town hall, comp plan booth. Next steps for printing and distribution - Susan will confer with Supervisor. Kristen offered assistance with a few other content ideas, she and Bev will confer.

CAPI update: Richard has had no news - we are awaiting initiation, probably delayed due to health crisis.

Regarding the fleet inventory: Kristen took the 15 items included in the FI guidance, created a spreadsheet, and reached out to our Town Auto Center to check in. Everything is delayed - they actually have a fairly current vehicle list with the needed info - will be getting from every dept. Ann suggested we plant the seed at budget time of electrifying vehicles - individual depts decide about their own vehicles. Kristen thanks Richard for his focus on this issue.

LED documentation update: Ann shared the street light summary that she completed. (Susan uploaded this to our PE3 folder on Google Drive.) It shows that the town has converted 82% of its street lights to LEDs. Ann will contact the Comptroller to ask for copies of bills and receipts showing that we paid for the conversion and showing a drop in electric bill. Michelle Gluck will upload the spreadsheet into the CSC portal. Although unable to attend tonight's meeting, Michelle reported that it will be very helpful for the "description of documentation" to get copies of bills/receipts, and also a photo or two. She thinks that the town will be eligible for 5 points towards CSC Certification because 70-100% of streetlights were converted to LED. The Town can be eligible for 5 additional points if it submits for CEC High Impact action credit. Richard asked that we check the points calculation, since this seems to disagree with what shows on the site. Please note regarding the spreadsheet: the ones on with street names are NOT converted - these are being converted as they burn out. The ones with page numbers ARE converted.

Please note the following information shared by Michelle:

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities: There are several differences between the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) and Climate Smart Communities (CSC) requirements for LED street lights. These include, for example, the fact that the CEC program has a higher minimum threshold of 50%, but that threshold is based on a percentage of cobra-head style street lights. In contrast, points under the CSC program are based on a percentage of the community's total number of street lights (of any style, cobra and non-cobra-head).
As

part of aligning these two programs, local governments that have completed the CEC [LED Street Lights](#) High Impact Action are eligible for five of the points available under this CSC action, provided the LED street lights are currently active at the time of submittal for CSC certification and the applicant submits the actual number of individual cobra-head street lights upgraded to LED. Local governments interested in earning greater than five points must provide documentation that meets the specific requirements of this CSC action.

EV update: Joan spoke with contact from Central Hudson regarding the EV Summit for 2020. He will keep us in mind to be involved - what would our role be? Could we partner with them or help plan or promote event? May be virtual. If we make progress in the town we could possibly present at the event. The CH rep mentioned the great amount of progress made in Ulster County and suggested that things done there are possible models.

Pollinator Pathway update: Susan connected with reps from the Pathway who have been organizing towns along the Hudson, one who organizes the Pathway in Westchester County. Extremely supportive. Also discussed this concept with Jen Rubbo, Director of Vassar Environmental Cooperative, she is very interested in collaborating. Ann and Susan will include this idea when speaking to the Supervisor. This is extremely relevant for the CAC, but has potential for points; Susan is representing both groups on this proposal.

Green Business Challenge update: Susan reached out to ICLEI where this program originated. The representative who responded is local (Garrison) and provided a variety of materials that we can peruse to see how this might fit for us - is available for support. Susan also reached out to New Paltz Climate Smart which is participating, for a local model.

NRI update: Susan reported from the CAC that the RFP is in process.

Comp plan update: Kristen reported that public workshops, which had been scheduled for March, were of course unable to occur. They continue to work with the consultant and to move forward. Gearing up for a possible 7/1 evening webinar format in lieu of workshop - please hold this date. Comp plan also has a beautiful new Facebook page, please like and follow it.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht

Next meeting: July 2, 2020