



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

October 1, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Meeting occurred on Zoom online platform at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97988216848?pwd=czhkRmJ3a05EaVVid0g3cC9CMnNPZz09>

Task Force members present:

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

- Certification application/actions status

Susan reported that she met with Michelle Gluck on 9/10/20 to review all of the planned and completed actions. They plan to confirm what documentation has already been uploaded and to upload additional available items. Susan will reach out to Kristen and/or Ann if items are needed from the Town. Some items she will be able to procure from the CAC. They also identified a few actions that we did not necessarily have planned but which may be in play especially since we have students interested in assisting (e.g. tree canopy inventory could be accomplished by Hudson Valley Mappers group at Vassar College), and also identified areas relevant to NRI/Open Space Plan that Susan can keep in mind as the CAC proceeds to select a consultant for the Inventory.

- CAPI

There has been no date provided yet for the first meeting. CAPI organizers continue to provide background materials for participants.

- Fleet Inventory

A conference took place on 9/10/20 with Richard, Kristen, Susan, Michelle and Brian Porter from the Auto Dept. That department is now connected with us and Richard can proceed to complete the inventory and obtain the needed additional information. Brian was provided with the full spreadsheet to date. Richard was able to identify pertinent questions and can be connected now with various department heads regarding vehicle use, fuel, etc. He has already reached out again with specific questions. The inventory is

a critical educational and data collection step that we must have as a baseline for planning. Susan commented on Brian's supportiveness. Richard commented that we need departments to start taking environmental issues into account when they replace vehicles; if we can provide financial incentives (e.g. EV incentives) to cut down emissions it's an ideal way to partner with them.

- EV education

Joan received a response from CALSTART saying that they do not plan any seminars or training sessions in the near future similar to what some of the task force members attended. She reached out to a contact that suggested a contact at Empire Clean Cities - waiting to hear back. Joan has been adding to our list of resources for EV infrastructure - see the shared document "EV Infrastructure Funding and Support Services." We discussed the idea of creating our own presentation to town officials to share this information with them. A section has been added for suggested EV charging station locations - just a start. This would be in conjunction with the Town investing in EVs. It would be helpful to have a map or list of town-owned property to help make more suggestions. Kristen can assist with this list. Beverly suggested that it should include parks where youth sports leagues play and similar.

We discussed what might be the best way to communicate this info to town personnel; Ann and Kristen suggested that this would be a perfect topic for Committee of the Whole. Joan is willing to be involved and to reach out to NYSERDA for a professional presenter to assist us. Kristen has a contact there and will try to assist. Planning board personnel should also be invited so that EV infrastructure can be incorporated into project proposals.

(Committee of the Whole meets on 2nd Wednesdays, upcoming dates: 10/14, 11/18, 12/16. CCA discussion is scheduled for 10/14. This is scheduled through the Town Clerk, Felicia Salvatore.)

We further agreed that we should first endeavor to set up this informational program for town personnel, as a manageable project, then later for business owners, possibly work through Chamber of Commerce (which is County level).

Katherine suggested that we include links to EV info on our website and Facebook page.

- NRI consultant selection

Susan reported from the CAC that six proposals were received from consultants interested in doing the NRI and Open Space Plan. Members of the CAC, in consultation with Mike Welti, selected three firms for interviews which will occur on 10/7. They expect to make a decision immediately following interviews.

- Solar for All Campaign

Susan provided the following update from Danielle Salisbury at Cornell Cooperative Extension. Our Scoping Document was submitted to NYSERDA, and we learned in response just this week that the Clean Energy Communities program will shortly undergo a major update. The Solarize, Clean Heating and Cooling, and Solar for All Campaign high-impact action will be replaced by a Community Campaigns high impact action. By completing this new action, the Town would potentially be eligible for grant funding through Action Grants, as a certain number of grants are set aside for communities that successfully complete this new action. There will be a slightly different Scoping Document in the new program that we would need to complete and NYSERDA would need to approve. Fortunately, there is no requirement that the Town be designated a Clean Energy Community to be eligible for the grant. There will be several dozen grants available for communities that complete the “community campaigns” high-impact action and all associated requirements. If the Town decides to pursue CEC designation, other grant types will be available as well. The task force members agreed that we should hold until we can re-submit, for this reason. Susan will keep Jay Baisley in the loop.

Susan also shared campaign materials that Danielle has in development including a flyer and social media postings.

- CCA and new solar opportunities

Susan and Ann met on 9/25 with Jay Baisley and Jeff Domanski of Hudson Valley Energy. Following a detailed discussion of new aspects of CCA and community solar incentives, and an honest airing of concerns, Jay indicated that he is amenable to coming back to the Town Board with this information. This has been scheduled for 10/14 Committee of the Whole.

- Pollinator Pathway

Susan continues to pursue this new initiative which “lives” primarily in the CAC but is relevant for action points. She has identified a large group of town stakeholders including school districts, colleges, etc. and is working on developing specific individual contacts for a steering committee with the hope of having an initial meeting in the near future. Beverly suggested the Scouts and Susan will follow up on this. Susan asked Katherine to assist with a contact at DCC.

- Other

Susan noted that last night’s public Comp Plan meeting was well done and informative and was enthusiastic about the presentation of sustainability elements. The meeting recording will be available shortly.

Next meeting: November 5, 2020 at 7 pm

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht