



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

**September 3, 2020 at 7:00 PM
on Zoom online platform**

Task Force members present:

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

- CAPI update including Fleet Inventory

Richard looked at what other towns have done for this project but has not taken further steps. Kristen noted anecdotally that the number of town vehicles is decreasing on the parking lot at town hall and that there may be some sharing occurring or vehicles being retired. If so, this is positive. She reiterated that Brian at the Auto Dept. is aware of what kinds of actions will result in points, and that progress on all of this was delayed due to COVID. She will follow up to connect Richard and Brian for the needed conversation about the fleet; Michelle will join if available.

Susan asked if CAPI delays will impact our anticipated date of submission for initial certification. Michelle did not expect CAPI to be complete for submittal but suspects that the change in the Comp Plan timeline may impact this, as we expected to count it. Kristen noted that there is a tentative date of 9/30 for a second public workshop, no details yet. Ann agreed that the Plan is a couple of months delayed. Michelle and Susan will make a date to review anticipated actions and points.

- Solar for All Campaign update

Susan reported that the Town Board passed the Resolution unanimously on August 19th. Susan, Ann, and Danielle Salisbury met to complete the NYSERDA Scoping Document, which was then shared with Kristen and Michelle for suggestions as well. This document describes our proposed campaign and includes specifics on how we will “market” the information to the community, what other groups will partner to facilitate this, etc. Ann contacted Jay Baisley who is ready to sign the completed document. Susan will follow up with Danielle to see this through.

- Brochure and publicity update

The committee reviewed the updated version and identified a few last small edits to be

made by Beverly. When complete, Susan will follow up to have it printed. She will also follow up regarding the proposed logo design from DCC students by contacting the relevant task force members.

Susan will share our new Facebook page (we have a number of followers) on the CSC and CAC listservs.

- Michelle received an inquiry from the Town of Dover; they are interested in EV and grants and, like us, receive support from CCEDC. This was not an outreach for collaboration but rather just a reminder for us of our interest in pursuing this area. Joan noted that Central Hudson still isn't planning any events, in which we had hoped to participate, due to COVID. We discussed that there are two prongs:

1 - Charging on town property - we need to pursue this and will brainstorm a list of possible locations (parks, town centers, etc.). We agreed that town personnel might appreciate and benefit from a webinar similar to the one some of us attended initially in order to understand how this could be planned, what the costs and incentives would be, how locations could be selected to benefit both fleet and employee vehicles, how this could impact fleet, etc. Joan will reach out to those same presenters to ask what they might be able to provide in terms of training. Planning, auto depts should be included. Kristen mentioned the Arlington Main St. redesign project which is conceptual at this time.

2 - Charging on private business property - we need to work on getting our business owners educated on grants and incentives by developing appropriate resources and identifying target businesses.

- CCA - discussion of possible next steps

A couple of members contacted friends in the municipalities participating in current aggregations. Anecdotally, we heard that some residents were completely unaware of the aggregation or had not observed any significant changes. So far this line of inquiry has not provided robust information. Susan will use the CSC listserv to reach out to others for their experiences.

Ann explained that currently CCA is not favored at the town board. Joan asked if this topic could be raised in public comment at a board meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that Susan will reach out with a letter to the Supervisor explaining that the task force simply supports an exploratory process. Primary points to be reiterated are:

- We want to understand the concerns and try to address the questions
- Significant interest in such programs demonstrated at recent public comp plan meeting
- There is an opt-out opportunity, no resident is forced to participate
- The initial decision by the board would be for exploration only without any commitment by the town
- The number of neighboring and regional municipalities doing this

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- We fully support objective exploration of whether CCA is financially advantageous or, minimally, equivalent in addition to environmentally sound
- Impact on certification and clean energy communities
- Availability of webinar 9/10 (was shared with task force members)

Michelle pointed out that we are making good progress on other initiatives with the board's support and that we may hope to build upon our ability to be a trusted group.

Next meeting: October 1, 2020 at 7 pm

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht