

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force

Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Alma Lowry, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Shirley Knop; Kathy Collett; Mona Perrotti; Steve Orvis; Bryan Roy, Kathryn Doran; Kaitlyn Coluccio MVEDD (Mohawk Valley Economic Development District)

Kathryn was introduced as a new member of the task force. She is a retired Professor of Philosophy from Hamilton College with a specialty in environmental ethics.

The minutes for May were approved.

Town of Kirkland Reapplication

The application for Bronze recognition from NYSERDA was resubmitted including the green gas emissions inventory. They requested a logo for the town. Approval tends to be slow.

Action item: Alan will contact Garry Colarusso regarding a logo for the town.

Repair café

Kathy reported that the Repair Café held on June 6 was very successful. It was publicized in both *The Daily Sentinel* and *The Waterville Times*.

Climate action plan

Steve reported that more information is needed from Aaron Strong who is currently in New Zealand.

Solar outreach

Alan met with a Power Market representative. He suggested that communities get a greater response from letters sent by a mayor or supervisor recommending community solar. In Utica 900 people signed up in response to a letter. Another avenue would be publicizing this at our farmer's market booth. Brad Tito has a slide show available to promote community solar. Signing up results in a 10% saving on the electric bill and as much as 20% for low income applicants. However, it is not available for anyone who has solar panels. Documentation is needed to enroll.

We might have an education event combined with one about heat pumps including vendors of solar panels and heat pumps taking part. We will discuss this further at the August meeting.

Climate Connection Summit

Alan attended this event.

Electric car show

Bryan, Alan and Sally brought cars to the show which was in conjunction with the Clinton Fire Department's classic car show on Sunday, June 7. The event went on despite torrential rain.

Task Force Coordinator

Steve Orvis has agreed to become the new coordinator of the task force. Alma is now working in Albany during the week and unable to continue as coordinator, though she will remain a member.

Farmer's Market

We will have a table at the Clinton Farmer's Market on July 9 and 23, August 6 and 20 from 10 - 2. We will share a table with the Kirkland Trails and will need someone to staff the table each day. We will concentrate on a topic for each: composting, repair café, electric lawn equipment and solar.

Action item: Kathryn will contact the Chamber of Commerce to secure a table. The office is at the left back of the Alexander Hamilton.

There has been a great deal of discussion regarding a proposed solar project on Brimfield Street. Jennifer Geiger has information regarding that project.

Action item: Sally will contact Bryan regarding storage of materials for the Farmer's Market Booth. His office is near Agway.

Kaitlyn reported that Megan will be joining as the new representative for NYSERDA.

Our next meeting will be August 20 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Sally Carman
Secretary