

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Action Task Force March 23, 2021 6:35 p.m. Present: Shirley Knop; Steve Orvis; Alan Cole; Aaron Strong; Alma Lowry, Carol Gable, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Steve Bellona, Clinton Mayor; and Liseli Haines, joined later by Kathy Collett and Mona Perrotti.

Aaron reported that data gathering from 2017 - present on greenhouse gas emissions is almost complete. There was a modest reduction in electric usage in 2020.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station – A new Hartford firm presented to the DRI group on EV charging stations and Steve B and Carol attended. The firm will install the stations and complete the paperwork to utilize grant funding from National Grid and NYSERDA to pay for infrastructure work and equipment so no cost to municipality or business. The village is considering, but will likely complete a parking survey/study first to determine best location. Carol will notify Garry of this opportunity as town considering using CEC grant funds to install EV station at hockey arena. Steve B. will let some local businesses and organizations such as Hanaford's and the Kirkland Library know about this opportunity.

Climate Action Plan - Alma and Aaron recommend that we do some community engagement and education before attempting to create a community wide climate action plan. All of these actions will earn points in the CSC program and it is important to make people aware of climate issues and their local impact, state programs to mitigate and adapt, the taskforce work, etc. Ways to do this include hosting table at events such as farmer's market and art/music festivals and organizing a sustainable/clean energy event, possibly in conjunction with Hamilton College October fling. Alma mentioned that we would maximize returns by forming partnerships with other groups in the community to host events. Heatsmart Mohawk Valley and Kirkland Trails were mentioned. Aaron said that CCS students would be resources, in promoting the CCIA (investment in the NYS climate initiatives) and LEAP (Leaders in Education Apprenticeship Program). Sally suggested that we include the Oneida County Cornell Cooperative Extension regarding regenerative farming and involve some from the large farming community in Kirkland. Aaron has students working on soil health and on reforestation. A book and a recent documentary based on it, Kiss the Ground*, addresses these topics

A memo of understanding or resolution is needed from both municipalities regarding a community education plan and at least 2 public education events must be held within year of applying for CSC designation. Requirements for the education plan are copied below.

“The strategy document should include the goals and scope of the outreach program, key partners (in the community and in the region), an analysis of the audiences with which the local government is trying to engage, and recommended engagement methods tailored to local circumstances.”

Steve B reported that Elizabeth Tantillo will be new mayor on April 5 and she supports the taskforce work. He will no longer be on the board but will continue on the taskforce. The new mayor will need to appoint a new representative from the village board, however.

Action item: Aaron and Alma will work on an outline of a community education/engagement plan to present for discussion at April meeting. It is likely that a subcommittee will be needed to begin this work.

Food Waste Survey - the Village has 1000 envelopes with the Village address that we may use. The survey will be duplicated at the Hamilton College print shop and return envelopes obtained from the post office.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:30 pm.

Sally Carman Secretary

*Sally owns a copy of the book if anyone would like to borrow it