

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Committee November 10, 2020 6:30 p.m.

Present on Zoom: Carol Gable, Coordinator; Steve Bellona, Clinton Mayor; Prof. Aaron Strong, Gary Colarusso, Kirkland Deputy Supervisor; Sally Carman, Secretary; Mona Perotti; Kathy Collett; Liseli Haines; Alan Cole; Alma Lowry; and Shirley Knop.

Kathy reported that a draft of the Complete Streets Proposal is being worked on. The committee consists of: Kathy, Sandy Scofield, Steve Bellona, Steve Grimm, and Chip Bassett. Sally and Gary are also interested in taking part. Camden and Whitesboro were contacted about their plans. Clinton and Kirkland would need to pass resolutions to become Complete Streets communities. This would need to be put on their agenda in advance. Kathy will schedule a separate meeting of Complete Street group to discuss.

Feedback from the community meeting on October 13 has been very good. There was very good coverage in the newspapers. The Hamilton College students' vulnerability assessment will be presented at the meeting next week (November 19 at 7:00 p.m.).

Alan reported that a hand full of responses (about 12) came in from the high school students. Meredith Callahan and the students in her environmental club will be meeting on Wednesday morning. They are working on an inventory of local government buildings regarding greenhouse gas usage.

Gary asked if the high school has a course about the environment, but this is unknown.

A graduate student, Joshua, who is studying at Paul Smith College is interested in joining our committee.

Newspaper contacts for publicity are Clinton Record - Nicole and Waterville Times - Zack Lewis. (Zack lives in Clinton near the Oriskany Creek and is interested in flooding issues.)

Aaron reported that his students are working on a final report including science graphs with explanations to be presented at the November 19 meeting. The meeting will be 35 - 40 minutes long, followed by a question and answer period.

Action item: Alma will send the announcement of the 11/19 meeting to all who took part at the last meeting. She will also send a press release to the Clinton Record and the Waterville Times. Committee members should also send personal invitations to local residents they know.

Action item: The final report of the assessment should be sent to Alan to put on the website. Aaron and Meredith hope to complete the municipal greenhouse gas inventories by December or January. Preparing a green house inventory for entire community would require community involvement. Also, the minutes of our meetings should be sent to Alan to add to our website.

Organic food/yard waste was discussed. There is a need for funding for a proposed pilot project on collecting compost. A proposal should be submitted to the Town-Gown Fund in January. Mike Debraggio is the coordinator for the fund.

Upcoming meetings of CSC will be Tuesday, December 8, 2020 and January 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m..

Action items: Carol will upload final action items for Kirkland to qualify for the CEC designation.

Gary asked if someone would report to the town on CSC actions and progress. It was suggested that the village and town hold meetings by Zoom so that more can attend. Steve B noted that Town and Village meetings must be in person to allow for transcription. Aaron and Carol will attend the Town Board meeting the second Monday in December to give a report. Carol normally attends town meetings anyway and has recently provided CSC updates for Village Board meetings (as well as attend). She offered to provide CSC updates to Gary for town meetings as well.

Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations will be needed in the Village or Town at some point in the future to meet goals established by CLCPA (Climate Leadership Community Protection Act) for significant reduction of state's carbon emissions by 2030. Price Chopper on Commercial Drive has charging stations as does the New Hartford Town Office. It was suggested that the village and town begin discussion on the best place for these and Gary suggested the police station in Clark Mills. It is not near shopping, however, which is sometimes helpful for car owners. Other locations suggested were: the Dollar General parking lot, Hannaford parking lot or the Key Bank parking lot. Steve suggested these be included in long term planning and in consultation with the Clinton Chamber of Commerce

There are different grant programs to assist municipalities and businesses in funding EV charging stations. Hamilton College, for example, currently has a number of charging stations which were paid for by National Grid.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15