

Minutes of the Clinton Kirkland Climate Smart Community Task Force

June 16, 2022 - 6:30 pm

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Shirley Knop; Steve Bellona; Alma Lowery; Kathy Collett; Carol Gable; Garry Calaruso, Town liaison; Joanne Gilles, Village liaison; Mona Perrotti; Bryan Roy, Sarah Abrams, Hamilton College Student; Elizabeth Tantillo, Village Mayor.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Points amassed through NYSERDA

Carol Gable shared a spread sheet showing the number of minimum and maximum points for each category (see attached). Those highlighted in yellow have been completed and uploaded to the website. A total of 3 priority actions and 120 points are required for bronze designation. Aaron completed an emissions inventory for Clinton, but not yet for Kirkland. Alma is nearing completion of a Climate Change Education Plan. Aaron and Alma are working on a Community Climate Action Plan. The Farmer's Market takes place on Village land and thus should qualify for points for Clinton, but not Kirkland.

If a vulnerability plan for both Clinton and Kirkland is submitted, it would put us over the 120 points needed for bronze designation. We learn how many points earned after we submit.

Action item: Carol will send resolutions and the benchmark inventory with a link to our website to NYSERDA.

Website

Alan has been maintaining this and wonders if it is effective. There are links to the Village and Town sites on digital towpath. However, some felt that the latter might be better organized and more "user-friendly," perhaps with photos. The website of the Town of Cazenovia is an example (<https://towncazenovia.digitaltowpath.org:10079/content/>) Alan forwards our minutes to the Village and Town to be put on their websites. Perhaps our website could feature projects, though continual updating is needed. The Task Force should be considered a committee of the Town and Village with a link to our website: <https://kirklandclintonclimatesmart.org/>

Climate action plan

Steve will check with Aaron Strong regarding work his students have been doing. This includes an emissions inventory and a climate action plan, which earn high points with NYSERDA. Steve B. reported that data for two years have been compiled already for the Village.

Social media and education

Other avenues of publicity need to be explored: Facebook, Instagram, etc. These could highlight some projects such as the heat smart campaign and the electric car show.

Action item: Alan agreed to help with Facebook publicity.
<https://www.facebook.com/KirklandClintonCSC>

This can also be shared on the Village Facebook page, perhaps shared with others such as the County and Town.

Energy charging stations

The Kirkland Town Library plans to install a charging station in their back parking lot.

Flooding meeting - July 20 at 6:30 pm

The Oriskany Creek Basin Commission has now been established across municipal districts.. Maggie Reilly will be presenting her "Water 101" information session on July 20 at 6:30 pm in the Kirkland Town Hall.

The St. Mary's Creek study is almost completed by Jon Scott and will be incorporated with the Sauquoit watershed study. There will be a meeting about this on July 21 in Lombard Hall. Jon is chair of the committee. Publicity will include pamphlets, flyers and posters.

Action item: Steve O will contact both Jon and Maggie with an offer of help from our Task Force.

Heat Smart meeting

The meeting held on Monday, June 13 in Clark Mills was poorly attended. However people who did attend were very interested in investigating new heating alternatives.

Energy audit

Sarah, other Hamilton College students and Jon Scott are working on a audit of energy usage in government buildings including the Town Barn, as well as an inventory of the vehicle fleet.

Elizabeth T would like to see an energy audit of the two fire department buildings, the Village garage and the water treatment building. Are these different from other municipal buildings? This is a question for Amanda, our NYSERDA representative.

Garry reported that action on Town vehicle purchases must wait until fall because of the lag time required for the bidding process. Whether to buy or lease is being considered. Nye Ford has provided vehicles in the past.

Action item: Garry will check on prices of larger vehicles: pick-up trucks, police vehicles, vehicles used by the arena. It may require scouting distant locations to find hybrid vehicles. These are used 8 - 12 hours per day.

Data is needed on fuel usage of Town vehicles. How much would be saved by using fuel-efficient vehicles? Should the new larger electric lawn mowers be considered? Bryan does assessments of fuel usage as part of his work and would be willing to help.

Action item: Steve Orvis will put together links on fuel usage.

Action item: Alma will generate a list of options needed to gain points from NYSERDA. This will enable us to determine our next steps,.

Information tables this summer

Staffing is needed for the Farmer's Market. Information for "Wild Ones" (Steve, Mona, Kathy and Shirley are members) could be included. The plan is to set-up a table for two weeks in July and two in August, perhaps 10 am - 2 pm. Levitt Students could help. Steve is willing to do set-up. [Sally has pop-up tent, table, electric car flag, climate smart banner, and some literature available to use.]

The Art and Music Festival will also be an opportunity to have a table. It will be August 27.

Action item: Steve O. will arrange this with Jackie Walters of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Sherrill Brook Forest

Alan reported on efforts to have a trail through the forest area which extends from Sherrill Brook Park in New Hartford to an area along Brimfield St. in Kirkland. The property is 450 acres and is privately owned. It is offered for sale at \$4 million. Two solar projects are proposed which would involve clear-cutting 60 acres of trees. A trail as a buffer along the projects has been suggested. However, the current plans do not include a trail. Comments should be sent to the Kirkland Planning Board.

Other solar projects include the one on Kirkland Ave. which has been approved but no work has been started. An easement in Westmoreland on College Hill has been requested but is undecided. Shirley attended the open meeting regarding this.

New brochure

Sally has updated our Task Force brochure and will be printing copies. [Now distributed to Lombard Hall, Kirkland Municipal Building, Kirkland Town Library, Kirkland Art Center, Chamber of Commerce Booth at Farmer's Market, and Helen Sarandrea Physical Therapy on route 5].

Next meetings will be Thursday, July 21 and Thursday, August 18 at 6:30 pm.
Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Sally Carman
Secretary