

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Task Force
Thursday, January 19, 2023
6:30 p.m..

Present: Steve Orvis, President; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Shirley Knop; Liseli Haines; Matthew Syke; Kathy Collett; Mona Perrotti; Aaron Strong; Bryan Roy; Alma Lowery; guests Alana Wratten; Isla McCullough

There were no minutes from the December meeting because few attended.
The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

There was an announcement that the Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission will be meeting on Thursday, February 16 at 4:30 p.m.. At 6:00 p.m. there will be a presentation of the Sherman Brook flooding study.

Community Solar

Proposals for community solar have been received from only two groups: Powermarket, (who submitted an email proposal) and Solstice Community Solar, based in Cambridge, MA. Sarah Gyrina, a graduate of Hamilton College, gave us a presentation at the November meeting. Powermarket sent an example of a project undertaken in Lafayette, NY.

Differences in the two proposals:

- * Solstice is currently available for 170 households and could start providing benefits in 90 days. It contracts with three solar farms in the Rome area.
- * Powermarket would start up later in the year
- * Solstice offers a \$100 gift card for those you sign up and also \$100 to the municipality
- * Solstice offers 10% off of 95% of the total bill
- * Powermarket covers 90% - 95% of a resident's historical usage with credits

Those who already have rooftop solar would not be able to sign up. Also, NYSEG serves a small portion south of the town including property where Liseli lives. The others are all served National Grid.

We will need to check references on the companies. We also should check on the location of the solar farms. The companies all want to locate near electrical sub-stations. These locations may not be the best in terms of environmental impact.

Would this provide us with points from NYSERDA? Is it part of our education plan?

Action Item: Steve will contact both Village Mayor, Elizabeth Tantillo, and Garry Colarusso of the Town Board to determine if there is interest in taking part in a community solar plan.

Participation of one or both municipalities would be essential in marketing the program.

Action item: Steve will check with the Kirkland Trails group to learn more about the logging on

Limberlost Road and on Route 12B north.

Benchmarking

Action item: Matt Sykes volunteered to enter information on utility use by the Village and the Town. Aaron will show him how to load this information in the system. Kathryn Arcuri, Secretary to the Supervisor, will produce paper copies of the information for him. Gasoline usage data is the next step - the Village uses the Town gas pumps.

Education plan

Alma said we still need to include priorities. The Village approved a draft resolution. We still need approval of the Town. How would they be involved - perhaps by providing space?

In order to receive points, we need to hold two public education events within the same year of plan submission. Would it be possible to partner with the watershed commission? Perhaps the electric car show would qualify. Rain barrels would contribute to mitigation and may be available from the Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA).

Action item: Matt will find out what is required to gain points from NYSERDA.

Action item: Mona will check with OHSWA about obtaining rain barrels

Flooding

Maggie Reilly will be talking to the Kirkland Trails group about flooding.

Action item: Task Force members will try to attend the presentation about the Sherman Brook flooding issue on Thursday, February 16 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Steve will ask Maggie Reilly about this. We should help publicize this event, especially with property owners who are affected.

Our next meeting will be changed as a result of this presentation. It will be held on Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Points

Action item: Alan will be uploading points for our group, taking over from Carol Gable who now lives in Utica. Documentation is needed to do this.

Alan noted that Gerry Gogel would like to join our group.

L.E.A.P.

Alana and Isla attended our meeting as representatives of the L.E.A.P. environmental group at Clinton Central School. Meredith Callahan is their advisor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Sally Carman
Secretary