

**Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart  
Community Task Force  
October 26, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Sally Carman, Secretary; Shirley Knop; Liseli Haines; Bryan Roy; Alma Lowry; Kathy Collett; Clare Robinson; Scott ?; Katie Rockford joined at 7.

The minutes were approved.

**Education plan**

Alma outlined the education plan, She welcomes any edits and/or additions. She mentioned successful projects: the Green Bucket Project; the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation meeting on October 3 at the Kirkland Town Library. She noted skills among the Task Force members, including an architect, Brendan Marris.

In order to obtain credit from NYSERDA, we need agreement on projects, and an evaluation on the success of the projects. These include: the electric car show, tabling at the Farmer's Market (both ongoing) and the heat smart adaptation workshop.

Potential projects include: a parade of electric cars, etc. How do we implement these and measure the success? Any changes in the plan should be sent to Alan next week so that it may be put on the website.

**Action item:** Send any photos, graphics or flyers to Alma to include in the plan. Also, any documentation such as sign-in sheets, slides, brochures, etc. Alma will distribute the revised education plan.

Other projects to consider:

- A program on sustainable farming held at the local VFW. These could be presented by local farmers or someone from Cornell Cooperative Extension. Farmers include: Post Street Farm (Kathy knows them), J. B. Riffle who has an on-line market., Kingfisher Farm, and a CSA on South Street in Clark Mills.
- Another heat smart campaign in the spring after new State incentives are announced.
- Possible solar installations.

**Cooling centers**

Liseli reported talking to Anne Debraggio, Director of the Kirkland Town Library. The library is an unofficial cooling center. However, this would need to be advertized, a portable generator purchased, and open hours extended as needed. It could be included on the Town and Village website. (These are managed by Marc Goldberg for the Village and the new office assistant for the Town.)

Other options: the Senior Center in Clark Mills, though the air conditioning is seldom used. The Legion in Clark Mills is private. The Country Pantry is run by Mary Zimbler, but not always open. The church on Kirkland Avenue is used as a voting place and has air conditioning. However, it is not open for many hours.

Perhaps a warming center is needed during a bad winter storm when power is out.

In both cases transportation would be needed to the site. Hamilton College might be a possible site.

### **Complete streets - sidewalks**

There is concern about providing sidewalks in the Town. An agreement has been reached between Bob Meelan, Town Supervisor, and Elizabeth Tantillo, Village Mayor, determining that all sidewalks will be maintained by the Village crew. People in Clark Mills are not concerned about sidewalks.

Jim Bramley representing Kirkland Trails is willing help with this. The top priorities in public meetings have been sidewalks and public bathrooms.

### **Flooding issues**

Sally has attended all the meetings presented by Ramboll Engineering on the flooding caused by St. Mary's Brook and Sherman Brook. The recent work on deepening Sherman Brook next to Route 12B across from Clinton Pottery was performed by the DOT. Perhaps more communication between various entities is required.

Also, the 30 - 40 unit proposed apartment complex on Taylor Avenue partially funded by the DRI money may cause increased flooding concerns since Sherman Brook borders the property. Will the proposed new pedestrian bridge across Sherman Brook to be part of the northern section of Kirkland Trails cause any flooding? Kathy reported that the bridge will be high enough over the Brook to not cause any issues.

The Green Bucket Project we submitted for DRI funding was rejected because it does not meet their criteria.

The next meeting will be held on November 16 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Sally Carman  
Secretary