

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force

Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Alma Lowry, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Kathy Collett; Gerry Gogel; Steve Orvis; Mona Perrotti; Austin Cipriano, Hamilton Student; Samantha Francisco, MVEDD

Minutes corrections: The action item was to remind the Village about producing receipts for electric landscaping equipment, not the electric truck. Also, the Whitesboro library would be willing to be open more hours to serve as a cooling center if money was available. St. James Church is only interested in sponsoring something like a repair café.

The minutes for September were approved as revised.

Survey

Austin is working on his senior thesis for Hamilton College and has developed a survey to determine reasons why people do not want to take advantage of incentives to install heat pumps in their homes. This will be sent only to residents of the Village and will be available on paper and online. He asked for input on changes.

Changes suggested: list the programs available. Separate the section for people who have already installed heat pumps. Ask if they took advantage of incentives.

What would be discouraging factors? What are barriers, and what are motivations. Include ground source and air source as well as water heaters.

Include ranges for income. Send suggestions to: aciprian@hamilton.edu

Climate Smart Certification

The Village of Clinton has enough points to be eligible to receive a \$50,000 grant. First the points have to be approved and the Village notified. Then an application for a grant needs to be submitted quickly with an idea of how the money would be spent. This improves the chances of the application being approved. The funds are used up by the end of the year and less money would be awarded next year.

Action item: Arrange a meeting with the mayor and the head of the Department of Public Works R. Rockwell. Included on this committee: Alma, Steve Orvis and Brian Roy to discuss the above.

The Town of Kirkland received a \$5000 grant and applied for a \$10,000 grant. Currently 120 more points are needed to obtain bronze certification. Samantha (Sam) is working with the Town on that.

Sam reported that the NYSERDA committee will review the data in the application on January

10. The application for the grant needs to be ready to submit in mid-December.

Cooling centers

A plan to clarify the status of libraries as cooling centers is needed - moving toward a policy. A template for this would be helpful.

Repair café

A guide for this is needed, with possible collaboration with other groups, i.e. churches, perhaps a Utica group. The first step is to gauge interest. A meeting in January to plan this is a goal.

Future actions

The Oriskany Creek Watershed plan - a project description needs to be uploaded along with the plan.

Would the project on Norton Avenue to reduce flooding count for points? Samantha has expertise in this area and could help. Photos of before and after the work would help, also specs on the size of culverts before and after.

Action item: Mona will talk to Jon Scott, DPW head for the Town, about this information and forward it to Samantha.

(projects.constructconnect.com/details6247.841-norton-avenue-culverts-projects&find.loc=xy-13323)

Contact information for Samantha (Sam): sfrancisco@mvedd.org

The DEC is meeting on October 29th at 4. Information available at: nypf@nypf.org

A media presence is needed Alma and Alan will work on that.

Work on a master plan for the Village, to include a climate plan, is needed.

Action item: Steve will talk to the Village Mayor about the work on a plan.

Is an additional food waste program worth exploring? DEC grants are available.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

Sally Carman
Secretary