

Minutes of the Kirkland Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Sarah Abrams, Liseli Haines, Matthew Syke; Shirley Knop; Kathy Collett; Mona Perotti; Carol Gable; Aaron Strong.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved..

Heat Smart Event

Three vendors will take part at the event discussing alternatives for heating and cooling homes. It is scheduled for the upstairs room at the Kirkland Town Library on Thursday, October 27 at 7 p.m. Publicity includes: posters around town, articles in the *Waterville Times* and *The Daily Sentinel*. Help is needed to set up chairs. Anyone who can help should arrive at 6:30 p.m. There will be no Zoom available. Amanda will be the presenter. She will list the new incentives available. We are all asked to invite people to this event. Kathy has a video tour of her house with a new ground source heat pump installed to show at the meeting. Liseli, Shirley and Mona volunteered to help.

Action item: Carol will send a summary of the program to Steve.

Utica also has a heat smart program managed by the Economic Development Office.

Climate Smart Points

Aaron reported that the **greenhouse gas inventory** for Kirkland is not complete. Receipts are needed on gasoline and diesel usage. However, there is a five-year record for the Village.

Benchmarking regarding energy usage by the buildings still requires more information from the Town and Village. This has been done for 2017 - 2019. The results need to be up on the web pages for both to receive points. An example of this can be found on the Cazenovia website. In the future, updating information with utility bills should be obtained and entered yearly in January or February.

Aaron uses portfolio-manager software and will enter information this year, but would like someone to volunteer to learn the system and to do this in the future. This will enable us to track the energy usage over time. Carol noted that in Canton, the Town Clerk enters this information. Steve Bellona, former Clinton Mayor, has done this in the past for Clinton. Kathy Arcuri, Town Clerk, receives the bills. Would she be willing to enter the information? We need to regularize that information on utility usage by the Town and Village is being uploaded to the websites.

Action item: Aaron will ask Garry Colarusso about who might enter the bills in the system.

Vulnerability assessment

Aaron has completed information on this.

Action item: Aaron will send the slides and .pdf document to Alan to put on our website.

The flooding problem needs updating and longer study for both the Town and the Village.

Action item: Aaron will talk to the Town Clerk about putting the greenhouse gas inventory on the Town website in January.

Hopefully the Town and Village can apply for Bronze designation. The Village is ahead on this.

Community Solar Campaign

Some Hamilton College alumni work for Solstice Solar. There is the potential to save money through taking part in a community solar program. (See attachment from Solstice Solar.)

Action item: Matt will contact Sarah Gyurine from Solstice Solar asking her to come to our November meeting to talk about her company.

Oriskany Creek Basin Commission

Aaron sent us slides on the presentation given by the Delta engineers who conducted the St. Mary's Brook flooding study. More follow-up is needed.

Liseli and Alan attended the meeting of the Oriskany Basin Commission. They are looking for photos of flooding in the area with dates. These should be sent to Amy Heiderich, Oneida County Department of Planning: aheiderich@ocgov.net

The Norton Avenue bridge project to add culverts in order to lessen flooding is on hold. Grant monies are needed - original projected cost was \$800,000 but current rates bring that to \$2 million.

Kirkland Trails

Jim Bramley has the petitions supporting sidewalks along Meadow St. to be part of the road work on Route 12B South. He is holding these until the project is more imminent.

Community Solar Campaign

The Waterville Times on Wednesday, October 19 had an excellent article stating objection to the clear-cutting of trees behind Riverhawk on 12B in the Town of Kirkland to install a solar farm. The area includes trails, gorges and waterfalls. Perhaps we should attend a Planning Committee meeting? Jim Bramley or Chip Bassett will know more.

The solar farm proposal for Valley View Road in the Town of Westmoreland failed because the application was not well done

Other business

Aaron suggested looking at Sara Gyurina's thesis:

<https://www.hamilton.edu/news/story/three-minute-thesis-competition>

[The environmental studies major's thesis topic was "We're Staying Put: How Place Attachment Builds Wildfire Resilience in Cazadero, Calif."]

Sally Carman
Secretary