

**Minutes of the Kirkland Clinton Climate Smart Task Force
October 21, 2021
6:30 pm**

Present: Carol Gable, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Shirley Knop, Steve Orvis, Alma Lowery, Kathy Collett, Aaron Strong, Jon Scott, Kirkland DPW Director, and Mona Perrotti.

Local flooding

Jon Scott reported that engineering studies have been completed regarding flooding and community meetings are planned. The Oriskany Basin Commission has been formed and a vote of the Town Board is need to join. The St. Mary's Brook flooding was studied by Delta engineers to address the concerns of residents. Steven Grimm, Superintendent of CCS Schools has been concerned about flooding on the school playing fields.

There is a proposal for a study of the Sherman Brook, especially flooding around the Kirkland Avenue bridge. The study has a cost of \$200,000. We need to publicize the mitigation efforts to prevent flooding, and join with other municipalities on this. Hydrology modeling is needed. Gaining access to the creeks from the Department of Environmental Conservation is important. There is also an issue of liability. Retention and storage in the water shed are issues. The problem of flash floods is world-wide, not just here.

A capstone course for seniors taught by Aaron Strong in the spring will enlist flood observers and collect data on the exact locations of flooding. This will include: rain gauges, basements flooded, etc.

Action item

A planning group for meetings on flooding will include: Alma Lowery, Shirley Knop, Aaron Strong and Jon Scott. A meeting site will be found. Possibilities include: high school auditorium, town hall, Kirkland Art Center, Kirkland Town Library. It needs to be accessible and well advertized.

Community Engagement and Education Plan

Alma emailed a proposed plan to the task force. The most important goal is to engage the community as a whole. In order to obtain NYSERDA points, the Town and Village must sponsor these. A meeting on flooding would qualify. Alma requested input and ideas to be sent to her. A collaboration with other towns would be effective.

Downtown Revitalization Initiative

A decision on the proposal put forth by Kirkland and Clinton has not yet been made. Sidewalks to improve "walkability" and a walking tour have been included in the plan and tie in with the Complete Streets part of improving the local climate.

Heat Smart

Kathy will be meeting with representatives of Heat Smart companies. Hopefully there will be

two events within the next year promoting this alternative to heating and cooling homes.

Food Waste Project

Collection for the food waste pilot project in Clinton began on October 13 and will be continuing for six months. Total participants are now 46 and nearing the 50 in the original plan. This is a project sponsored by the Village.

School meeting

Alma met with Meredith Callaghan who mentors an environmental studies club at the high school. She has 8 - 10 students who would like to work on climate action.

Emission study

Aaron reported that the emissions study of Village vehicles has been completed. The Town study is not yet complete. Needed is information on fuel use, heat and electricity use. Aaron will send the reports to Carol when completed.

Action item

Carol will send information on the Task Force to Steve, Joanne and Garry so that it can be linked to the Town and Village websites as a community organization.

Student interns

The Levitt Center at Hamilton College is sponsoring interns trained to help small communities committed to climate action. They will work with Amy of NYSERDA to help with inventories.

Solar field

According to the *Waterville Times*, the solar field on Kirkland Avenue has been approved by the Kirkland Planning Committee. Alma's class is conducting discussion on solar on November 17 from 6:00 to 8:00.

New coordinator

Carol noted that a new coordinator of the Task Force will be needed in January as she will be stepping down.

Action plan

Sally will invite those who expressed interest in the Task Force at the Farmer's Market to the November meeting, to be held on Thursday, November 18 at 6:30 pm. Aaron has met with Dean Korsak, someone who expressed interest in our group. He is a lawyer for the Air Force working on environmental policy. Aaron will talk to someone from the refugee center who also expressed interest.

The next meetings will be held on Zoom on Thursday, November 18 and Thursday, December 16 at 6:30 pm.

Sally Carman
Secretary