

**Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart
Community Task Force
November 16, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Sally Carman, Secretary; Shirley Knop; Liseli Haines;; Alma Lowry; Kathy Collett; Matthew Syke, Aaron Strong; Bryan Roy; Steve Bellona; Laura Sutterly; Katie Rockford; and Zoe Martin.

The minutes were approved.

Education Plan

Alma said the plan is completed. She thanked Bryan and Sally for their comments.

Action item: Sally will send a .pdf of the Task Force brochure to be included in the plan.

The fact that the Village provides space and insurance for our booth at the Farmer's Market denotes sponsorship. The Chamber of Commerce has copies of the insurance forms. The photo included of flooding depicts street flooding in 2013.

The Village Board is working on a Master Plan for the Village.

Sustainable agriculture

Sites suggested for a forum about sustainable agriculture include: the VFW and Legion. Kiwanis, Lions Club and others may provide a new audience. Presenters might include: professors from SUNY Morrisville, which has a new masters program in sustainable agriculture, a farmer from Post Street Farm and from Kingfisher Farm. Common Thread in Madison operates a No Till Farm. The Vernon Verona High School has an Future Farmers of America program. Cornell Cooperative Extension and BOCES might be willing to help.

Action item: a subcommittee composed of Alma, Steve O., Sally and Kyle M. will meet to determine the focus of the Task Force for the new year.

Renewable energy

There is a new renewable energy program at SUNY Morrisville, with a new faculty member, Jenny Frank. It is possible to climb inside a wind turbine. We might be able to arrange a field trip. There is a New York energy museum next to the Utica Zoo that is worth a visit.

Students of Meredith Callahan at CCS are planning a "bus-in," taking the bus to encourage the use of public transportation which saves energy. Aaron noted that transportation and buildings are tied in terms of emissions generated.

Action item: Aaron will send information on these programs to Alma to include in the education plan.

Credits earned

Steve O met with Matthew S. Regarding points we have earned toward Bronze designation. Alan noted that the Town and Village are registered separately for points earned.

We now have 105 points and need 120 points for bronze certification. Documentation and a description is needed for each item. These need to be submitted by January 5. Bronze designation does not mean a cash grant but rather access to available grants. The results are announced in February. This is a good thing in terms of advertizing. Currently there are 399 Climate Smart Communities in New York State at varying levels of achievement.

Action plan: Steve O. will give a report to the Town Board on our progress. **Someone is needed to give a report to the Village Board on Monday, December 4.**

Action item: Alan, Aaron, Steve B. and Steve O. will meet before our next meeting to determine if we have all the information that is required.

Coordinator needed

Steve Orvis will be in D.C. for the spring semester. Thus a new coordinator is needed. He has contacted several people, but has not found one willing to take on this responsibility. The coordinator needs to be approved by both the Village and the Town.

Renewable energy systems presentation

Aaron announced that his class will be giving a presentation on the results of a semester-long study on renewable energy. It will be held in the Kirner-Johnson Building on the Hamilton College campus on Wednesday, November 29 at 6:00 p.m. Seventeen students will be giving presentations on a variety of topics.

Action item: Aaron will send posters to the Task Force and Steve O. will distribute the information to our larger list of interested people.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Sally Carman
Secretary