

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force

November 17, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Shirley Knop; Mona Perotti; Kathy Collett; Mathew Syke; Aaron Strong, Carol Gable; Steve Bellona
Guests: Chip Bassett; Sarah Gyryna;

The October minutes were approved.

Solar campaign

(An RFP from Solstice Community Solar was circulated via e-mail to the task force members)

Sarah Gyryna spoke as a representative of Solstice Community Solar, based in Cambridge, MA. Sarah is a graduate of Hamilton College. The company has installations across New York State and also in Illinois. They offer donations to non-profits for referrals. They have an education program which they are able to offer by a number of different methods: newsletter, mailing lists, farmers' market booth, etc,

The company has an existing solar farm in Rome, NY (erected in December 2021). For participation they will donate \$100 (½ to residents and ½ to the community) plus an enrollment bonus. Upon submission of a document of action, an award is available through New York State. The minimum threshold of clients is from eight to 40 (the number to be decided by our group) and we designate the organization to receive funds. The clients are given a code for tracking purposes. Cancellation requires 90-days notice. (See <https://solstice.us/> and wp:content/upload/solstice-community-solar-RFP-KirklandClinton.docx-1.pdf)

Action item: We request additional information from Solstice on the number of shares for this site, number of households available, etc.

This proposal would need to be approved by both the Town of Kirkland and the Village of Clinton. Both can accept funds.

Questions: how long would a campaign last? Would it involve a kick-off meeting, direct mail, other publicity? A statement from the Clinton Mayor would be helpful. What other communities in New York are taking part?

Action item: Sarah will send us additional names of participants after it has been presented to both municipalities for approval, perhaps in the spring.

Kirkland Trails

Chip Bassett, Vice President of the group, expressed concern about the proposal by Atlas Renewables to the Kirkland Planning Board. They would like to clear-cut 65 acres of land behind Riverhawk Co. on Route 12B in order to build a solar farm. This land includes Mud Creek which flows into Sauquoit Creek Basin, an area already having flooding issues. The land includes wildlife habitats, hiking trails and other natural features. The Kirkland Trails groups would like our group to present a letter in opposition to this project to the Planning Board. Maggie Reilly, who specializes in engineering relating to water issues, may be helpful.

Action item: Steve will compose with Aaron a resolution from our group expressing the environmental concerns of the project and distribute it to our group for suggestions.

The Planning Board met on November 21 and the next meeting is scheduled for December 21. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month. However, no public hearing has been scheduled. The Planning Board is mostly concerned with legal issues. They have asked for a storm water prevention plan

from the company, how will they dispose of stumps, etc. We, as individuals, can also write letters to the board.

Sidewalk on Meadow Street

The sidewalk currently proposed would extend on the east side of Meadow Street from Dwight Avenue to Franklin, past Hannaford and Clinton Tractor. Chip has possession of the signed petitions in favor of a sidewalk.

Action item: Steve will contact Garry Colarusso about the status of the sidewalk proposed along Route 12 B South as part of improvement of that section by the DOT, now set for 2024.

Chamber of Commerce Breakfast

The idea of our group sponsoring a C of C breakfast will be discussed the next meeting.

Action item: Matthew Syke will compose a scoping document regarding obtaining a grant through NYSERDA for a community solar project. (More funds may be available in the new year.)

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Sally Carman
Secretary