

## **Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force**

December 12, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Liseli Haines; Alma Lowry; Kathy Collett; Catherine Berryman; Shirley Knop

**Alma Lowry has agreed to be the new coordinator beginning in January since Steve will be in D.C.**

The minutes were approved.

### **Points achieved**

Alan Cole, Steve Bellona, Aaron Strong and Steve Orvis met to determine how many points the Village and the Town have amassed. Bronze level requires 120 points. The Village is nearing the goal with 117 points. If the Climate Action Plan is approved it will put this over the goal. The Town still needs a greenhouse gas inventory for its fleet which would earn 20 points.

Work of the Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission would amass more points. Planting trees along the Creek helped lessen flooding. The old Chenango Canal needs to be cleaned out.

In order to receive points requires an extensive amount of documentation on the part of the Task Force. The next level is silver but requires many more points. Only nine communities in New York State have achieved that status with 300 points. It would require buying electric vehicles and other upgrades.

The Mayor is excited about achieving bronze level and perhaps a celebration would make more people aware of what that means.

Deadlines include: January 5 which is the first deadline in order to get approval by March. Our committee is working on documentation.

**Action Item:** Steve Orvis will get on the agenda and attend the next Village meeting. He will give a brief review of what we have accomplished and announce the new coordinator. The meetings are held on the first Monday of the month in Lumbard Hall at 7 p.m. (January 2)

**Action item:** Alan will talk to Amanda Kaier (or Matt) on what detail is needed to get points regarding issues with water and flooding.

**Action item:** As part of the overall Education Plan, a sub- committee of Steve Orvis, Alma Lowry, Laura Sitterly and Sally Carman will meet to discuss ways to promote sustainable agriculture and involve the farming community as our focus this year.

Steve contacted Wendy and Asher of Common Thread CSA. They are willing to help as

needed.

Alma will contact Jason Townsend of Post Street Farm in Clinton and Alicia Zombek who is part of a farm family

Laura will contact dairy farmers in the area

Liseli attends meeting of the Organic Farmers Association in Syracuse held in January

David Brubaker is a certified dairy farmer who lives on Route 12B South at the end of Peck Road.

Wormont Woolies is a small CSA in Cassville that has a farm stand, organic produce, dairy cattle, and specializes in sheep. (8998 Summit Road, Cassville, NY 315-725-1716).

Ways to approach this may be to create a dialog with conventional farmers, perhaps with a panel and question and answer discussion. It should be held in a site that is comfortable for farm families.

### **New grant opportunities**

Amanda Kaier told Steve that there are new opportunities for grants to encourage the use of green energy. The Village may be qualified for a \$10,000 grant. This would be an incentive for the Town to do more.

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Sally Carman  
Secretary