

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

Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Alma Lowry, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Gerry Gogel; Steve Orvis; Mona Perrotti; Liseli Haines; Shirley Knop; Kathy Collett; Brendan Marris; Samantha (Sam) Francisco, MVEDD

The October minutes were approved.

### **NYSERDA Grant**

Sam reported that the grant for \$50,000 has been approved by NYSERDA for the Village of Clinton. It will be used for an electric vehicle for the use of the codes officers and bids are out for price quotes. A check for 25% of the cost was sent to the Village and after a proof of purchase is presented, the Village will receive the remaining amount.

Steve and Brian Roy met with the Village Mayor about potential vehicles. A Chevy Silverado may be the choice. They will wait to publicize this until all decisions are made.

The NYSERDA high-impact action portal is temporarily paused so that additional points cannot currently be added.

### **Cooling Centers**

Alma reported that we are currently waiting for the facilities committee of the Kirkland Town Library to draft a disaster plan of which acting as a cooling center would be a part.

### **Repair Café**

Liseli and Kathy met with the staff at St. James Church in Clinton about the idea of conducting a repair café. Sarah Swan of Creative Reuse ([uticacreativeuse.org](http://uticacreativeuse.org)) hosted a meeting on repair of appliances in November. The proposal is to hold a repair café in February or March at St. James Church. It would include: clothing repair, small appliance repair (e.g. lamp repair), perhaps wood working. Volunteers are needed to assist with a letter drafted to several organizations asking for help. Ideas for volunteers include: Hamilton College faculty and staff, Kiwanis Club, Bike Rescue, Jay-K Lumber, BOCES, etc. (Sally noted that she has a portable sewing machine and would be willing to help.) A meeting will be set up in January and a letter sent out to get volunteers.

This has been discussed with the Clinton Mayor. Our Town representative, Garry Colarusso, also needs to be contacted. A Google form will be set up for registration for the event and the plan is for two events in 2025.

### **Culvert Work**

Mona is trying to contact Jon Scott, DPW head for the Town. She hopes to meet with him to learn more about the flood mitigation work on Norton Avenue.

### **Climate Action/ Master Plan**

Steve reported that there needs to be public participation in order for a Master Plan to be adopted in order to obtain points from NYSERDA. There are two aspects which can receive points - a sustainability plan and a climate action plan. Which avenue should be chosen?

Sam reported that a new version of a climate action plan is due from NYSERDA in December and we should wait to see what that entails. At that point a meeting with the Mayor would be a good idea.

A committee to work on this plan includes: Alan, Steve (who will join remotely from New York City in the spring), Alma, Gerry, and Liseli, with Sam as an advisor. They will meet in January.

**Action item:** Steve will circulate a copy of what has already been done on formulating a plan.

Additional items needed for certification by the Town are required by January 10. These could include: the cooling center designation and the Oriskany Creek Watershed plan.

**Action item:** Alan will check on the ways the new rules from NYSERDA will affect certification.

The list of Task Force Members needs updating. However, only the coordinator needs to be approved by the Town and Village Boards.

**Action item:** Sam will compile a bullet point list of the items needed for the certification of the Town

**Action item:** Alan, Steve O. and Alma will each take a section for submitting this information to the NYSERDA portal.

**Action item:** Liseli will write up information on the Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission and also on the Cooling Centers and send it to Alma.

### **Food Waste Program**

Grants are available for a municipal food waste program. Perhaps this would involve designating a drop-off point.

### **Resale store**

Hamilton College initiated a program for resale of items left by students. The Village picks up large items put out to the curb on the last Wednesday of the month and takes these to the Transfer

Station of the Town. It is open from May to October on Saturday mornings. A space would be needed for donation of reusable items, and money and staff would be required to operate it. Currently, those interested in bargains travel around on Tuesday night to pick up items. An alternative would be a free-cycle program.

**Action item:** Liseli and Alma will talk to Jon Scott, head of the Town DPW and Garry Colarusso, our representative to the Town Board, about reuse/resale of items picked up at the curb.

**Action item:** Mona and Gerry will work on a plan for a drop-off site for food waste. Can the Village anaerobic digester be repaired, what hours and staffing would be needed, or how might a drop-off at the OHSWA be implemented?

Alma will send an overview of all discussed and possible grant proposals that are needed by the end of January.

The next meeting will be on January 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Sally Carman  
Secretary