

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force February 26, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Alma Lowry, Coordinator; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Sally Carman, Secretary; Shirley Knop; Mona Perrotti; Liseli Haines, Kathy Collett; Gerry Gogel; Bryan Roy; Samantha Francisco

The January minutes were approved.

Town of Kirkland Application

As part of the re-application for Bronze status by the Town of Kirkland, Alma gave the fleet fuel inventory to Garry Colarusso, Town Supervisor. This application is due by May 22.

A question was raised if the Repair Café would be credited partly to the Town, though they did not give any financial support. Posters were put in the Town Hall.

Repair Café

The next Repair Café will be held on February 28 from 10 AM to 1 PM at the St. James Episcopal Church on Williams Street in Clinton. It will include repair of appliances and clothing. Posters were distributed throughout the Village and on the Village sign. It also appeared on the Patch email. In future information will be sent to the *Waterville Times* and the *Daily Sentinel*. Samantha can put it on our Facebook page.

Climate Action Plan

Steve Orvis made some revisions and it is in process.

Solar Outreach Documentary

Liseli, Mona and Gerry watched this. It was presented by 350.org and has some political and religious elements. It is 30 minutes in length and highlights the benefits of solar. It might be used as a presentation at the library followed by a discussion with a moderator. Mona has a list of other films which might be used. There are options available in addition to solar panels, for example community solar and balcony solar.

Swap sheds

Liseli reported on “swop shops” available in other cities. They involve a site where people can bring items that can be reused. Volunteers inspect items and offer them free-of-charge. Some have a building devoted to this project such as in Northampton. Liseli talked to Garry Colarusso about the possibility of doing this at the Town Transfer Station. It is open on Saturday from 8 to 1 from May to October. He mentioned liability as a problem. Any metal is sold and provides income for the Town. There are groups such a “free cycle” which also provide this service.

NYSERDA clean energy program

An electric utility vehicle costs \$50,000. There may be grants for specific projects, though many programs are designed for larger cities. Communicate any ideas to NYSERDA by March 20.

Possible moratorium on solar in the Town

Some residents, especially those along Brimfield St, have raised objections to some of the large solar projects. Will it affect only commercial projects? The Town's plan needs to be updated. Is underground wiring required? What is the benefit to taxpayers?

Further discussion was sent to the Planning Board with the Town Board having no comment.

The Task Force does not take a position, but we should continue to gather information and continue thinking about various solar options. We should ask Garry C. to keep us updated.

Task Force Membership

Alma spoke to both Garry C., Town Supervisor, and Elizabeth Tantillo, Village Mayor, about liaisons to the Task Force. They continue to be Garry and Joanne Gilles

Action item

Sally will send a .pdf of the brochure to Liseli so that she can give it to potential new members.

The next meeting will be March 19 [recently changed to March 26] at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Sally Carman
Secretary