

**Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart
Community Task Force
February 29, 2024 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Alma Lowry, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Steve Bellona; Mona Perotti; Kathy Collett; Gerry Gogel; and Liseli Haynes.

The January minutes were approved. (Alan, moved, Steve seconded)

Bronze certification

Alma and Alan met with Matt Syke. Our activities were submitted and are well above the level for certification for Bronze by the Village of Clinton. Information from the Town of Kirkland is still not complete.

Education subcommittee

Sally reported that a tour of Post Street Farm is being arranged by Laura Sitterly for members of the subcommittee. The purpose is to learn more about their flood mitigation efforts. The plan is to extend this to the greater farming community in the spring. We hope to involve some of the many farmers who live and work in our Town.

Cooling Center

Liseli reported that she will be contacting the webmasters of both the Town and the Village regarding cooling centers. Marc Goldberg is responsible for the Village's website.

Heat Smart Campaign

Approval for our successful sign-up of community members is waiting for NYSERDA approval. Both Alma and Kathy's son have been added to those who have installed Heat Smart systems. A press announcement will follow final approval.

Oriskany Watershed Commission

The Chair is Jon Scott, DPW head for the Town. Representatives of both the Town and the Village take part in the Commission.

Town of Kirkland points

More information is needed from the Town regarding an emission inventory, a fleet inventory, a building energy audit and a climate action plan. A water quality survey is also needed.

Action item: Alma will contact Garry Colarusso and Aaron Strong regarding this needed information.

Watershed plan

Liseli, Kathy and Steve B. will look at a plan for the watershed. They will gather information on what has been done to manage flooding, and look at national flood insurance information.

Solar project

The new proposed project by Atlas Energy to cut down old trees to install solar panels in the Towns of New Hartford and Kirkland is causing concern. Water management is one of great concern because Mudd Creek flows through that area. A public hearing will be held on March 25 at the meeting of the Kirkland Town Planning Board.

How do we decide on issues such as this? Should it be unanimous? By polling? The Town's solar ordinance is vague and mentions trees larger than 6". What is the environmental impact? Decisions should be based on facts, and made by only the "active" members of the Task Force. Individuals may also write letters on their own.

Action item: Gerry and Mona will look into forest management issues.

Action item: Alma will write up a proposal on decision making and circulate it by email.

Maintaining the bronze designation

Action item: Alma and Alan will look into what actions are needed to update the items we have fulfilled such as: fleet inventory, energy benchmarks, etc. Alan will also research what our communities have done.

Packaging reduction and bottle bill

Alan noted that he hopes for support of the packaging reduction and bottle bill being considered by the New York State Legislature. Marianne Buttenschon, representative from our area, is working on the legislation.

Action item: We will draft a letter in support of this legislation.

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

Sally Carman
Secretary