

Minutes of the Kirkland Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force

March 17, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Aaron Strong; Mona Perrotti; Steve Bellona; Carol Drogus; Shirley Knop, Joanne Gilles, Village liaison; Garry Colarruso, Town liaison. Kathy Collett joined at 7.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Town Hall Meeting on Flooding

Aaron reported that the Clinton VFW is an excellent location for a public meeting. There is no fee for use of the room by community groups. However, currently there is a problem with the furnace that they are working on. Therefore, the planned meeting on March 31 will have to be delayed. (Sherry and Michele are contacts at the VFW.)

The presentations will feature Maggie Reilly who will present "Water 101" with a slide show. Maggie is an engineer who has been working on the Sauquoit Flood Plain Project. Jon Scott, DPW of Kirkland, will talk about the St. Mary's Brook flooding investigation at a subsequent meeting.

Alternate sites for the meeting are the Kirkland Art Center (not available on 3/31) and the upstairs room in the Kirkland Town Library. An alternate date is 4/7. Students in Aaron's environmental studies class will be assisting.

Publicity for the meeting: contact Laura Stoll at KTL who maintains the sign at the end of the Village Green, posters printed by the Hamilton College Print Shop, *Waterville Times* (Aaron will send an article), Chamber of Commerce facebook page (contact Jackie Walters) Village and Town facebook pages, Nextdoor email. Also, people who were verbal at the town meeting about the solar farm on Kirkland Avenue should be contacted. Word of mouth will be the best publicity.

Action item: Aaron will finalize the date and notify our Task Force members.

Heat Smart Community Meeting

Steve Orvis will be meeting with the Heat Smart representatives and Carol Gable on 3/18 to discuss particulars of a community meeting. At least one or two vendors will be asked to take part. This will take place probably in late April. Carol Drogus has been investigating possible venues. The program could include the house tour done of Maggie Reilly's house which is on video, and possibly the house of Kathy Collett whose system is under construction.

Gas emission inventory

Scope one: Aaron Strong and his students conducted an inventory of emissions from the DPW transportation fleet and buildings in the Village. They presented this at the Village meeting on 3/7 and this was reported in the *Waterville Times*. They found that the buildings and transportation contributed equal amounts to emissions

Scope two - was an investigation of the electricity usage of the Village. It was shown that the power plant used the most. However the LED lights that were installed caused a savings of 70% in electricity use, though it varied throughout the seasons. The clock tower and CCS also contributed significantly to usage.

Savings in expenditures would result from the installation of heat pumps, and purchase of electric vehicles, but the initial investment would be high.

A similar study is now being conducted of the Town of Kirkland emissions and electricity usage.

Contributing to the high electricity usage by the water plant is the high flow from the storm sewers. A storm can increase water flow from 2 million gallons to 6.5 million. New, efficient, 50 hp water pumps have been installed

Action item: Aaron and his student, Jason, will work with Steve Orvis and Carol Gable to produce and distribute spreadsheets of the information collected.

Hamilton College Reforestation and Energy Conservation Project

The H.C. Board of Trustees voted to reduce energy consumption in all the campus buildings by 2030. They will install geothermal (as was done in the science building renovation) and heat pumps where appropriate. These local projects will provide a learning experience for the students. An energy master plan will be developed to reduce use of fossil fuels, and the older buildings will be targeted first.

National Grid

N.G. has a program to finance electric vehicle charging stations up to 100%.

Schenectady Solar Farm

Shirley noted that Schenectady has installed solar on a municipal building and adjoining land.

Electric car show

Sally said the classic car show sponsored by the Clinton Fire Department will be held on June 12. Since the show generated interest last year, we should try to get sponsorship, perhaps in the form of publicity, from the Village and Town to promote another electric car event. If sponsored, this would generate some points from NYSERDA.

Food Waste Project

Melissa Shupp of the Green Budget Project is collecting data on the amount of food waste saved from the landfill by the 50 project participants. She should have information to present at our April meeting.

Summer interns

There are students from Hamilton College who are available for special community projects in the Village and Town during the summer.

Farmer's Market Table

The Green Bucket Project is pairing with Kingfisher Farm in Clinton to have a table at the Farmers' Market every week this summer. Steve O. suggested that we partner with them so that we can share staffing at a booth. [The owner of Kingfisher Farm is a part-owner of Tom's Natural Foods.]

Education Plan

Alma said that a survey was done with students at CCS. There was a 70% response rate. She is working with Meredith Callahan at the high school. The plan is to send a similar survey to parents.

Sally Carman
Secretary