

**Kirkland Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force
Meeting on March 21, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

Present: Alma Lowery, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Liseli Haines; Shirley Knop; Gerry Gogel; Kathy Collett; Steve Orvis; Brendan Marris

The February minutes were approved.

Education subcommittee

Alma Lowery, Laura Sitterly and Sally Carman took a tour of the Post Street Farm on Gridley Paige Road in Deansboro hosted by John Howard. The Farm had recently built a large hoop house with the help of a grant from Mohawk Valley EDGE. They have a complete indoor water management system and movable panels to control light. They are currently raising lettuce for the Tailor and the Cook Restaurant. Outside is an interesting system of gravity feed and ponds to control rain water. Using raised beds with advice from Common Thread CSA and hand-tilling between rows, they pursue sustainable techniques.

The committee discussed possible ways to make this information more widely known among the local farming community and home gardeners. Perhaps this would involve a slide show at a local venue such as the VFW. Though farmers are always busy, it was suggested that winter might be a better time to schedule this.

Cooling centers

Liseli reported that the Kirkland Town Library is a possible site for a cooling center. Advertising this might be on the library website, the Village Facebook page and an article in the *Waterville Times*. A policy suggestion has been sent to Anne Debraggio, KTL Director. Alan noted that the policy should include who would be eligible and what services would be available. We would receive points for this.

Action item: Alma will check with Sarah Ziesnitz on the library board about cooling center ideas.

Town of Kirkland

Garry Colarusso has information on the fleet inventory which awards four points. Aaron has been working on an emission inventory for the Town, plus a greenhouse gas inventory (GHS). Completion of these would make the Town eligible for a \$10,000 grant. The submission date is May.

Action item: Alma will check on the ways the Village certification is maintained.

Planning Board Meeting

The Kirkland Town Planning Board will hold an open meeting to discuss the Atlas Solar Project on land owned by Jim Brock on March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Building.

Action item: Steve Orvis will resubmit a letter (previously sent in December 2022) to the Planning Board regarding our concerns about the extensive tree-cutting that is part of the project.

Individuals are encouraged to also write letters to the Planning Board. Jim Bramley will represent the Kirkland Trails group. Maggie Reilly will discuss the environmental concerns. Kathy Collett will read a letter from our Task Force.

Consensus decisions

Alma asked how we determine consensus on an issue. Do we ask everyone on our mailing list? Or only those who have been active? How do we determine “activity”? There needs to be a minimum quorum number. Would it take two people to block a decision. We currently do not have any by-laws.

It was decided that activity would include those who came to three meetings last year, or served on a sub-committee. We need to purge our list and ask people if they want to continue on the Task Force.

Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission

Liseli has attended the meetings. Also attending are Jon Scott for Town DPW and Ramboll Engineers. Any progress will take a year or more.

Tree City

Action Item: Alma will check with the Clinton Mayor as to whether Clinton has been designated a Tree City. This would award us additional points.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Sally Carman
Secretary