

**Minutes - Kirkland Clinton Climate Smart Committee
March 9, 2021**

Present: Garry Colarusso, Deputy Supervisor for Kirkland; Alan Cole; Sally Carman, Secretary; Carol Gable, Coordinator; Kathy Collett; Alma Lowry; Prof. Aaron Strong; Prof. Steve Orvis; Liseli Haines; Sandy Scofield; Steve Bellona, Clinton Mayor.

Carol called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Because of points amassed with NYSERDA, a grant of \$5000 each was earned by both Clinton and Kirkland. They are required to submit proposals for use of this money.

The grant of \$5,000 from NYSERDA:

Steve B. Submitted the following proposed use of the money for the Village:

\$3000 for firehouse repairs

\$3000 for LED lights for the DPW

\$3000 for an upgrade to the sewage treatment plant

Garry submitted the following proposed use of the money for the Town:

Install an electric vehicle charging unit at the Arena

Install motion sensor lights for the police station and garages in Clark Mills

Action item: Carol will send these proposals to NYSERDA

The next grant will be based on points earned. A total of 3000 points is needed to obtain the \$10,000 grant. The following points are possible:

Climate Smart Community certification: 800

Convert buildings to ground source heat pumps: 500

Purchase an electric vehicle: 300

Install an electric vehicle charging unit: 200

Have a community education campaign 200

Climate Fair: The latter might include a fair with discounts available from those who exhibit such as: solar companies, electric vehicle dealers, heating and cooling installers, Grants for this of \$5000 may be available. Possible exhibitors include City Suburban that does heat and cooling work. Mohawk Valley Heat Smart has a list of local businesses and non-profits statewide that are involved in green energy. The organizations are vetted by this group.

The website is: www.heatsmart.mv.org

Also, New York State will help in the selection of the best installers.

Yard waste in Kirkland and Clinton: The new schedule for yard waste collection will start on April 1.

Action item: Alan will put a link to this on the community website.

Food waste - Steve Orvis presented for the subcommittee. A grant has been approved from the Village of \$1350 to send a survey to Clinton residents in April. It will determine has many

residents are willing to take part in a Green Bucket pilot project for collecting food waste from households. Also a proposal has been drafted to send to the Town-Gown Fund requesting funds for a pilot project involving 50 households. Mike Debraggio who chairs the Fund committee seems to think it is a good project.

Aaron asked what we want to learn from this project. If it is successful, can it be expanded? How much food waste would be diverted from the landfill. Steve replied that Melissa Shupp who runs the Green Bucket Program will know the amount collected. Possible expansion of the project is still unknown. Currently Sally, Mona and Carol are taking part in the program. Compost collection will be required of restaurants by the state in 2022, but the ones in Clinton are too small to be affected.

Complete streets: both the Town and the Village passed the Complete Streets Resolution. Needed is a Task Force to propose ways to make our area more friendly to bikers and walkers. (The Kirkland Town Library has small space devoted to bike repair.) This Task Force would serve as an advisory group, working with Rob Rockwell in the Village DPW and Jon Scott working for the Town DPW. Steve Grimm, Superintendent of Clinton Central Schools (CCS) is interested in this project. The Fehlners, owners of the Clinton Cider Mill, are also interested. Kathy reported that the Kirkland Trails group is working on phase one - the southern part of the trail, and phase two will be the northeast side. It was suggested that perhaps there could be cooperation with the school architect.

Sandy said that she is interested in an extension of the sidewalk from Elm Street and the Cider Mill to the pool on Norton Ave. She believes young families in the area would be interested in this. A liaison with school board members was suggested.

Action: Sandy and Kathy agreed to serve as co-coordinators of a Complete Streets Task Force , with Kathy handling the technical aspects and Sandy handling the organization. Approval is needed from both the Town and the Village. Carol will meet with Sandy and Kathy to formulate a plan.

Action: Steve B. will send a presentation to Carol regarding a potential Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). The purpose would be to improve the community as a whole. This presentation will be given at the next meeting.

Comprehensive Plan: the old plan is 35 years old, and a new one is needed. What direction do we want to take coming out of the pandemic? This would include: the Town, Village and Clark Mills. This is foreseen as an umbrella group which would include: Kirkland Art Center, Kirkland Town Library, Lions Club, Figure Skating Club, Clinton Central Schools, Clinton Chamber of Commerce and others.

Community Rating System (CRS) - flooding: Aaron noted that a forecast of possible flood plains and plans to prevent flooding would be beneficial. This might offer discounts for flood insurance to home owners. Also, it could provide up to a 15% discount on Federally-backed mortgages. This would include storm water management, outreach regarding potential flood

hazards, a validation certificate, keeping parcels of land open and free from development in flood zones, etc. However, it requires a large of documentation, and coordination with FEMA. The first step is to determine what is already being done and document that. The Sanford Avenue area is critical because of recent flooding.

Action: One of Aaron's students at Hamilton College is working on a summer project, along with Brian Hansen, on area flood plains. Another student is working on an energy inventory. The purpose is to study the effects on energy usage of converting to LED lights.

Information can be found at: www.fema.gov

Jon Scott at the Kirkland DPW has done some work on this.

Carol noted that we can easily earn points for work already accomplished.

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

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

Sally Carman
Secretary