

**Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force
April 16, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Alma Lowry, Coordinator; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Sally Carman, Secretary; Shirley Knop; Mona Perrotti; Steve Orvis; Kathy Collett; Kaitlyn Coluccio MVEDD

The March minutes were approved with one correction: Garry Colarusso's first name has two "r's"

Kaitlyn announced that Samantha Francisco will be leaving MVEDD to go back to school. Kaitlyn is her replacement.

Town Bronze Re-Application

The greenhouse gas inventory (GGI) for the Town included data that was not specific to the Town. It included the Water Treatment Plant (Village owned) and the Clinton Central School, which is separate, and was for the years 2023 - 2025. Aaron Strong is working on parsing out data that related to just the items controlled by the Town which includes the Town Department of Public Works and the Police Department. This needs to be resubmitted to NYSERDA by the deadline of May 22. Later this information could be used for a community-wide GGI.

Action item: Alma will contact Aaron about compiling the data before the deadline.

Repair café

The next Repair Café will be held at St. James Church on Saturday, June 13. Additional experts may include Chip Bassett and Todd Rayne for bike repair.

Swap shed

Nothing new to report.

Climate action plan

Steve reported that the Climate Action Plan for the Village is moving slowly.

Community solar

Alan reported that there are currently five companies approved as community solar alternatives for our area. Brad Tito from the Hudson Valley might be available to give a remote public presentation on the possibilities of community solar. Those who sign up get 10% off their electric utility bill.

On May 6 there is a rally in Albany at the State Office Building sponsored by NY Renews and Indivisible Mohawk Valley to promote more solar usage.

A subcommittee to work on plans for a community meeting about community solar opportunities includes: Alan Cole, Liseli Haines, and Mona Perrotti.

NYS Climate Connection Summit

Those planning to take part in the NYS Climate Connection Summit to be held in Utica include: Aaron Strong, Alma Lowry, Alan Cole and Steve Orvis.

Possible solar moratorium

A community member who lives on Brimfield Street, Stuart Culver, has proposed a moratorium on solar projects in the Town until a variety of changes in the current ordinance are considered. We are encouraged to attend a Town Board meeting to take place on Monday, April 27 at 5 p.m. and also the Town Planning Board meeting on the same date at 7:30 p.m. Those planning to attend are: Shirley, Alma and perhaps Kathy.

Mona suggested reading the book *Here Comes the Sun* by Bill McKibben . In it he stressed the importance of acting now on Climate Change. Finding someone with more knowledge about the pros and cons of solar panels would be helpful.

A poll was taken of those present regarding taking a stand against a moratorium on solar. All voted in favor of opposing a moratorium.

Action item: Alma will poll the Task Force Members not present to determine their vote on this.

Expanding Task Force membership

Alma will contact the Chamber of Commerce for possible interest. Kathy will contact the Kirkland Democrats. Sally and Kathy will put articles in their church newsletters (Unitarian Universalist Church and St. James Episcopal Church).

Farmer's market

We will have our usual table at the Clinton Farmer's Market, two Thursdays in July and two Thursdays in August.

Possible solar project

The forest land adjacent to Sherrill Brook Park is now for sale. A group opposing a solar project on that land because of the need to clear cut trees tried to obtain a grant to buy that property. However, the land owner refuses to sell to that group.

Meeting times

It was agreed to meet every other month instead of every month. The next meeting will be on

June 18 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25.

Sally Carman
Secretary