

Meeting of the Clinton Kirkland Climate Smart Community Task Force

Thursday, April 20, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Orvis, coordinator; Alan Cole, webmaster; Sally Carman, secretary; Brendan Marris; Kathy Collett; Mona Perrotti; Liseli Haines; Shirley Knop; Bryan Roy

The minutes for February and March were both approved.

DRI - Downtown Revitalization Initiative Award (\$10 million)

We can attend a public meeting or write personal letters. The first step is that names (20 - 30) for a coordinating committee are sent to the State for approval. The names are chosen by the Village Mayor and the Town Supervisor. They may not be on a board for the Village or the Town. Molly Marris, Executive of the local Chamber of Commerce and wife of Brendan, is one who has been selected.

Suggestions that relate to our committee include: expanding the Green Bucket Project, installing electric car charging stations, sidewalks, heat pumps, and others. New York State requires more detail in each group. Kirkland Trails is working on a proposal. Additional funding is required. Financing can include in-kind work.

Action item: Steve will talk to Elizabeth Tantillo, Clinton Mayor, and Garry Colarusso, Deputy Superintendent of the Town of Kirkland, to determine the next steps.

Projects will be determined in the next 6 - 7 months, and the Governor will announce those chosen in October. The website is: ckic13323.files.wordpress.com/2022/11/2022-dri-application-final-1.pdf

Action item: Brendan will report back on the progress of the proposals

Community solar campaign

The Village Mayor sent our proposal for a community solar campaign to the Village Attorney, William Schmidt. He concluded that we cannot support a single company. However, other communities are doing this.

The Town Deputy Superintendent sent this proposal to the Town Attorney, Tony Hallack, but has not received a response as yet.

Steve contacted four municipalities. Two responded saying that they had no problems with their community solar campaign. One responded that a participant was not saving as much of a discount on his utility bill as he expected. Was he taking into account the overall increase in electric bills?

Heat smart campaign

Steve checked with the heat smart equipment vendors. Four families have agreed to install heat smart systems, of which three are in the Village. Mona is one who is installing a system in her home. Kathy's son is moving to the area and planning to install a heat smart system.

Tree inventory

An inventory of all the trees on Village land (those that are between the sidewalk and the street) have been counted, as well as their condition assessed. An overall plan for replacing diseased trees is being developed. Many ash trees have died because of the Emerald ash bore insect. Will we get points from NYSERDA for planting trees?

Action item: Steve will ask the Mayor about the possible use of native trees.

Fleet inventory

The inventory of the vehicles owned by the Village is complete. However, one is needed for the Town. The Town Supervisor is not in favor of the use of electric vehicles for police cars.

Alan reported that the Town is currently suing the maker of the EV charging station slated to be installed at the Arena. This has made the Town Board skeptical of "Green Solutions." Unfortunately, some of these companies are going out of business.

Annual report

We can receive points for producing an annual report each year

Action item: Steve will find out what is required in an annual report.

Melanie O'Neill on the Town Board is looking into a storm water project.

Car show

Sally, who has organized the electric car show in the past, will be out-of-town on the second weekend in June, which is the Sunday of the annual Fire Department cruise-in car show. The contact is Bill Huther, Kellogg Street. The current problem is availability of electric vehicles because of the requirement that all parts be made in the U.S.

Action item: An organizer for the car show will be decided upon at the May meeting.

Parade

The suggestion was made that electric vehicles be included in the July 4th parade in Clinton.

Action item: Mona will check with Bob Meelan, Town Supervisor, about this.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Sally Carman
Secretary