

Kirkland Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting May 2, 2024 6:30 p.m.

Present: Alma Lowry, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Liseli Haines; Shirley Knop; Gerry Gogel; Kathy Collett; Aaron Strong

The March minutes were approved with the exception of correcting the name “Lowry”

Decision making

Proposed process for making a decision by the task force is as follows:

- (i) Modified consensus/consensus minus one: Task Force members can vote “Absolutely Yes,” “Accept/Minor Reservations,” “Serious Reservations” or “Absolutely Not”. Two “absolutely not” votes block an action; two “serious reservation” votes force additional discussion.
- (ii) Vote is limited to “active Task Force members”: defined as Task Force members who have attended at least 3 Task Force meetings over the last 12 months.
- (iii) Voting can be by e-mail or in-person
- (iv) A vote would require one week’s notice

This process was approved.

Action item: Alma will provide a link to a google.doc with this information.

Farmer’s market

The Kirkland Trails group offered to provide staffing assistance for a table set up by our group. It was decided to do this for four weeks only: July 11, July 25, August 8 and August 23. Sally suggested that the free tree brought people to the table last year.

Action items: Alma will submit the table request to the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Action item: Aaron will generate ideas for kids’ activities to draw people.

Parade

Because of conflict with other groups, we will be unable to sponsor electric cars in the July 4 parade. However, anyone can probably show up and be in the parade.

Action item: Alan will find out more about parade requirements and send these to Alma.

Car show

The classic car show sponsored by the Clinton Fire Department will be on Sunday, June 9 on the grounds of the Clinton Central School from 10 - 3 this year. We will again be able to take part.

Alma, Alan, Sally and possibly Bryan Roy can bring cars. There is a fee of \$10 to take part and a chicken barbeque will be available.

Action item: Aaron will find out about owners of electric cars at Hamilton College and send the names to Sally.

Cooling center

Liseli spoke to Anne Debraggio, Director of the Kirkland Town Library, about the Library serving as a cooling center. This has been forwarded to their Policy Committee.

Certification

Steve and Alan sent information to NYSERDA including the fleet inventory. Aaron reported that there was a major increase in the gas inventory, from 15,000 btu to 65,000 btu since 2021. The data on emissions resulting from transportation needs to be checked. An addendum to the report can be submitted later.

Action item: Aaron will call Garry Colarusso, Deputy Supervisor of the Town of Kirkland, regarding the figures on emissions. The report is complete otherwise.

The Heat Smart Campaign has been completed and the criteria met

The Climate Action Plan has not yet been completed.

Alan reported that the minutes of all the meetings needed to be submitted. The final review is still being done by NYSERDA. According to the portal, all but one item submitted by the Task Force received full credit.

Tree city

Clinton has been named a Tree City enabled by a \$75,000 grant.

NYSERDA grant

The \$10,000 possible grant from NYSERDA must be used for clean energy, such as transportation, solar energy, charging stations, electric lawn equipment, heat sources in public buildings, etc. Lombard Hall is complicated because the upstairs is rented.

The cost of charging stations varies, perhaps \$10,000. However, do you charge for it? Maintenance and the installation of wiring, as well as maintenance of the software is required.

Hamilton College is planning the purchase of electric lawn equipment. Vendors have presented various options for review.

Action item: Aaron will contact Brian Hanson and Mike Klapmeyer, Director of the Physical Plant to determine what they learned about electric power equipment.

Action item: Alma will formulate a list of what may be required to get a grant for charging stations or other clean energy options.

Sally suggested the ideal of installing solar panels over parking lots, as is being done at J.F.K. Airport in New York City, and has been done at the Waste Treatment Plant in Atlantic City, NJ.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Sally Carman
Secretary