

**Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force
Thursday, June 22, 2023 - 6:30 p.m..**

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Liseli Haines; Steve Bellona; Brendan Marris; Bryan Roy; Aaron Strong; Kathy Collett, Sally Carman joined at 6:40.

(I regret that I was unable to join you at the beginning of the meeting due to technical difficulties. Please add in anything that I missed.)

Application for DRI money

Steve O. and Steve B. are working on a proposal to expand food waste collection in the Village. The Village would absorb the cost after two years. The Mayor is on board with this. Hamilton College students did an inventory of emissions of CO2 and methane from food waste, with a significant reduction shown from proper disposal of food waste. Kathy asked if there was an appropriate location for community disposal of compost-able materials, with the possibility of community members using the resulting compost for their gardens. Apparently the repair of the anaerobic digester owned by the Village is too costly.

Consultants from the NYS DRI organization will be in the Village on Thursday, June 29, to answer questions about the DRI. They will be at the farmer's market from 10 - 3, and at the Kirkland Art Center from 4 - 7.

Recycling containers

There was discussion of buying recycling bins for the Village. Kathy noted that at one point the St. James Church brought a recycling bin to the Green and later collected it.

Action item: Sally will contact the Village DPW about collecting recycling. *

Electric maintenance equipment

Another possible avenue to combat climate change would be the purchase of electric/battery equipment for Village maintenance, i.e. lawn mowers, leaf blowers, string trimmers, etc. Aaron noted that Brian Hansen at Hamilton College studied the possibility of purchasing electric equipment for the College.

Action item: Sally will investigate a possible proposal for the DRI on the purchase of electric equipment for the Village. ** (Proposals are due by July 10)

Parade on July 4

Liseli will be organizing a parade of electric and hybrid cars for the July 4th parade at 7 p.m.. She is looking for participants. She has reserved a space with Katherine Arcuri of the Town office. Sally will give her the Climate Smart banner and electric car flag. ***

Adaptation and mitigation events

Various ideas were discussed for an event. Hosting an event will amass points from NYSERDA.

Amanda from NYSERDA is willing to put on another program on heat smart heating/cooling.

“Managed retreat” is a program to buyout houses that are continually flooded. This is being tried in Whitesboro. Would it work here?

Rain garden information is another idea. Mona Perrotti has one in her yard. This helps mitigate flooding. Perhaps Cornell Cooperative Extension would give a program.

Art and Music Festival Booth

Sally suggested a booth for the annual festival to be held on August 26 this year. She volunteered to set up and help staff the booth. Ideas include raffling off a live tree for donations, (possibly to be used for recycling containers or trees) and highlighting the use of electric appliances and lawn equipment, as well as heat smart heating/cooling.

Highway resurfacing

Sally attended a DOT meeting on Wednesday, June 21 at the Town Hall. In the summer of 2024 there will be a resurfacing of 2.6 miles of Route 12 B from Furnace Street almost to the Lutheran Home, and also all of College Street, using asphalt material. Included will be a sidewalk along Meadow Street from Franklin Avenue past McDonalds, where there will be a crosswalk to cross 12B and join with the existing sidewalk. Sidewalk replacement will also be along the north side of College Street and the south side of Utica St.

Kirkland Trails group is working on a proposal for additional sidewalks through DRI money.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, July 20 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Sally Carman
Secretary

* The Village DPW collects all the trash from the Village Green and does not have the capacity to take recycling to OHSWA in Utica. Unfortunately, the current contract for trash and recycling pick-up in the Village does not allow for pick-up, except from individual businesses, once a week. This may be included in a future contract.

** According to the Village Mayor, electric equipment purchase is part of the Master Plan to be approved in November, and thus is not appropriate for a DRI proposal. Two new Ferris gas mowers were purchased in 2023 and 2022.

*** Due to a lack of availability of electric and hybrid car owners on July 4, we will not have electric cars as part of the parade this year.