

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Committee
August 10, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Present: Carol Gable, coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Aaron Strong, Liseli Haines.

All agreed that the latest IPCC report is depressing. Aaron spoke to Dean Korsak who would like to join our committee. Jeffrey Cross at Hamilton College is also interested. Good news is that Hamilton College employees can now invest their retirement savings in ESG funds.

Flooding issue

Mona Perrotti, Steve Bellona, Aaron Strong, Garry Colarusso, Jon Scott (Kirkland DPW), and Rob Rockwell (Clinton DPW) met to discuss strategies to address flooding. A major problem is the St. Mary's Brook Watershed. This affects Hannaford's, CCS, Norton Avenue homes, etc. A retention pond overflowed because it is not large enough. The Brook used to go straight to the Oriskany Creek, but constructed buildings have interfered with the flow.

Jon Scott has been working with engineers regarding the problem. The Norton Avenue bridge has been a problem. He welcomes support from the task force on communicating the issues around flooding. A public presentation on recommendations of engineers reviewing local flooding issues will be held, possibly in November. The community will also be asked to provide information and feedback on flooding issues. The task force will assist with this and it's been suggested to hold at Clinton Central School

A team of "flood observers," those who have had flooded basements and lawns, are needed to record what takes place. Hamilton College students may be able to tabulate the data. Flood mitigation work will provide opportunities for points toward the CSC designation and grant funds are available to support.

Downtown Revitalization plan. There will be a meeting on August 11 at 6 at the Kirkland Town Library and on Zoom to get public input on proposals to include in the plan to present to the State. The organizers would like the support of our committee for the proposal. The time line is short because the DRI proposal is due September 15.

Suggestions include: more sidewalks and trails to increase walkability, renewable energy such as solar panels on buildings, sustainability, more access for those with disabilities.

Action item: Alan will put the DRI survey on our website seeking input and suggested projects.

Food compost program: Steve O. reported that the sub-committee has not had a chance to meet since he returned to town.

EV charging station

New York State law decrees that 100% of new cars be electric by 2035. More hotels need them.

Action item: Carol will ask Garry Colarusso about the progress on installing a charging station at the Clinton Arena.

Sidewalks

Oneida County has announced they will provide grants to municipalities to improve walkability in villages and towns, especially around Main Streets. The DRI application will likely requesting funding for such projects as many people are voicing their desire for more sidewalks and trails in the community. The town seems to have concerns regarding snow clearance, but other towns such as Hamilton and Cazenovia have been able to resolve.

Education plan

Action Item: Alma and Aaron will plan to present ideas for community and engagement and education to begin this fall at the Sept meeting.

Farmer's Market

Sally reported that there has been some interest in our booth at the Clinton Farmer's Market and some have picked up brochures.

Art and Music Festival

We will have a booth at the Clinton Art and Music Festival on August 28. The Kirkland Art Center will also have their book sale at this event, which should draw more people.

There has been no more news about the solar project on Kirkland Avenue. The Kirkland Planning Board is still considering the issue.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Sally Carman
Secretary

