

## **Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force**

Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Alma Lowry, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Shirley Knop; Kathy Collett; Liseli Haines; Mona Perotti

The minutes for June 13 were approved.

### **Farmer's market**

Those who staffed the booth at the market said there was some interest. The map of the proposed Kirkland Trail generated interest. Liseli reported limited interest in the seed planting (2 of the 3 young people who planted seeds were her grandchildren). Some tickets have been collected for the tree raffle. (Winners to be selected on August 22.) On Thursday, August 22, Sally and Paul will set up, Alma will be there all day, Jim Bramley in the morning and Chip Bassett in the afternoon. Chip will take down the booth and take it to Sally's backyard.

### **Educational events**

Alma asked for suggestions for more educational events that we might pursue. One suggestion was for a **Repair Café**. This will involve bringing things to fix to a central location, which would encourage reuse instead of throwing things out. St. James Episcopal Church has been considering this idea. It could include people with different skills sharing their knowledge, i.e. wiring, baking, sewing, etc. The Kirkland Town Library might be a possible site. Liseli attended one and it was fun.

### **Cooling Center**

Liseli contacted the Policy Subcommittee of the Kirkland Town Library and they said that a policy about a cooling center was not needed. The Director, Anne Debraggio, is receptive to the idea. However, the staff needs to be made aware of this and an extension of open hours would be needed during a heat wave. It might be advertised on the Village Facebook page.

**Action item:** Alma will talk to Anne and Laura Stoll, Assistant Director and Office Manager, about using the Library as a cooling center. Kathy and Mona are also willing to meeting with them.

In order to get points, a policy is needed. It requires available water as well as extended hours. What would be the policy concerning bringing animals?

The Oneida County Health page lists the following cooling centers; Dunham Library, Kirkland Town Library, Sangertown Mall, Jervis Library, North Utica Senior Center, Rome Senior Center, Parkway Senior Center and the Utica Public Library:  
[ocgov.net/news/oneida-county-warns-of-extreme-heat-cooling-centers-available](https://ocgov.net/news/oneida-county-warns-of-extreme-heat-cooling-centers-available)

**Action Item:** Kathy, Liseli and Shirley volunteer to contact other libraries to see if they are willing

to be cooling centers.

### **Certifications for Clean Energy**

Heat Smart (any ground source or air source heat pumps installed in the last year)

Town- information is needed from Collis regarding those who have signed up. Names of these are needed to get credit. Tier one is 5 households signing up, tier two is ten or more. The Town plans to use the \$10,000 for landscaping equipment and perhaps a charging station.

Village - completed the Greenhouse gas inventory

Also, the Village installed LED street lights as well as in decorative lighting (200 points each)

The \$5000 grant will be put in a clean energy fund.

The plan is to buy electric landscaping equipment with the \$10,000 awarded

If 3000 points are awarded, a \$50,000 grant is given. The Village has 2500 points thus far, and hopes to use the award to buy an electric truck. There are a limited number of grants available, thus timing is critical. The \$50,000 grant drops to \$40,000 in October. The total possible grants = \$80,000.

Master Plan- the Village has one but the Town does not. The Village received a grant to do this. Perhaps the Town needs a grant as well.

The CEC (Clean Energy Community) and the CSC (Climate Smart Community) overlap functions. The former has more money available than the latter.

### **New business**

#### **Oriskany Creek Watershed Report**

Liseli reported that the draft study has been released. It is 167 pages with many charts. 99.8% of the Town of Kirkland is part of the watershed. This will make it possible to apply for grants. Having a study is good for 5 points for the Village and the Town. An article about the Watershed Report was in the *Observer Dispatch* newspaper.

Samantha Francisco has replaced Matt Syke as the new coordinator along with Amanda Kaiser as co coordinator. They will advise us what is needed to submit for points. Alan, Alma and Steve Orvis have access to the portal to submit actions completed.

A sub-committee on the Oriskany Creek consists of: Steve Bellona, Liseli, Kathy and

Mona. The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Sally Carman  
Secretary