

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Mona Perrotti; Liseli Haines; Matt Slike; Alma Lowery; Kathy Collett; Bryan Roy, Brendon Marris; Maya Weil-Cooley

The August minutes were approved as corrected

Route 12 B improvement

We do not know if the DOT plans to widen Meadow St during the 12B improvement project and where would a potential sidewalk be located? Part of our committee's work on NYSERDA's point system includes Complete Streets such as: pedestrian walkways and wheelchair access. Is the Planning Board aware of this?

Heat Smart

Another event is planned for Thursday, October 27 at the Kirkland Town Library at 7 pm. Amanda Kaier will be assisting. Hopefully the new federal initiative for these heating units will generate more interest. Word of mouth is most effective so spread the word.

Two more homeowners that sign up for the program are needed to receive credit from NYSERDA. The event held in Clark Mills was not well attended, though several people were interested in possibly signing up.

The new head of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce is Molly Marris. Our group might want to host a Chamber breakfast in order to talk more about our group.

A tour of Kathy Collett's house and her new heat pump system will be on Zoom on October 1.

Fleet transportation committee

Garry Colarusso is working on a list of vehicles owned by the Town.

Building committee

A study of the Town Barn was done by Hamilton College students with Jon Scott of the DPW, and they are working on a report.

Community solar

This may be a focus in the spring

Community education plan

Alma circulated a draft plan via email. She said that section 3 needs expansion. We need to decide on projects to prioritize. Possibilities include: mitigation, adaptation and resilience, flooding and a solar campaign.

Cost effectiveness is an issue. Also, expanding the audience is needed.

Action item: Alma will talk to Alicia, and adjunct at Hamilton College, staff at Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Water Management team.

We will decide on priorities at next month's meeting

Electric Vehicle campaign

Alan, Sally and Steve will work on a sub-committee to discuss alternatives such as charging stations, federal and state incentives, etc. This could be a topic at a Chamber breakfast.

Climate Smart Points

Carol Gable was unable to attend but emailed information as follows:

Report on vulnerability assessment for Clinton and Kirkland- believe Aaron and/or students has been completed, but a copy is needed to upload to CSC portal

Climate Change Education and Engagement Plan- Alma is still completing this.

Community Climate Action Plan- to be developed in upcoming year.

Energy Benchmarking for Government Buildings- the benchmark reports have been completed and uploaded. In order to obtain points, both the village and town need to provide annual reports on their webpages, but I don't see that this has been done.

Website on Climate Change Actions- village and town need to have info on their websites about actions related to efforts to address Climate Change which includes pertinent resolutions, reports, link to CSC taskforce page. Kirkland has done this, but Clinton has not.

Clinton comprehensive plan- Clinton applied for grant, don't know if received yet

In regards to agenda, two additional items that may be of interest are the DRI request for letter of support, did or will the CSC task force provide? and will the new proposal include same sustainability initiatives as last one? Also, has or will the petition for improved sidewalk access been submitted to town board?

A Climate action plan approved by the municipalities is needed. The Village is working on costs and possible grants.

Action item: Steve O. Will talk to the Clinton Mayor regarding the results.

Yard waste collection: The Village does this now, however points awarded vary.

Our website is: kirklandclintonclimatesmart.org. The link for waste pickup should be more prominent

Action item: Matt will find out the details of the point system, and send this to Steve O. He will also find out the results of the study done by the summer intern who worked with the Village.

Application for bronze status may be made in 2023 on: January 6, April 7, and July 4. Usually the earlier it is submitted is better. It requires 120 points.

Alan has been attending the Climate Smart Institute which is held online at noon on the first and second Monday of the month

The next meeting of the Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission will be on Thursday, October 20 at 4:30 at the Town Hall.

We have been working with: Amanda Kaier, Clean Energy Advisor for the Mohawk Valley Economic District. She has been helping with the Heat Smart campaign along with Natalie.

Electric vehicles.

Action Item: Alan will ask Amanda about a possible electric vehicle campaign.

Action item: Steve will talk to the new Chamber of Commerce Executive, Molly Marris, about incentives for businesses to install charging stations. He will also ask Elizabeth Tantillo who owns the Dollar General lot.

Action item: Sally will talk to the manager of the local Hannaford's about possible charging stations on their property, and any help from the corporate organization.

Is the charging station at the Arena being installed soon?

A suggestion would be to ask a local car dealer to take part in a Farmer's Market with an electric car on display.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Sally Carman
Secretary