

## **Minutes Kirkland Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force**

**September 16, 2021**

6:30 pm

Present: Carol Gable, Coordinator; Sally Carman, Secretary; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Shirley Knop; Steve Orvis; Alicia Luhrssen-Zombek (Cornell Cooperative Extension farmer); Aaron Strong; Kathy Collett; Mona Perrotti; Garry Colarusso

### **Climate Education Plan**

Aaron met with Jon Scott (DPW of Kirkland) regarding flooding issues. Community conversation have been held in conjunction with the Kirkland Town Library, but only a few have taken part.

**Action item:** Aaron Strong and Alma Lowery will present a proposed climate action plan for the community at the next meeting on October 21.

### **Heat Smart plus geothermal heating and cooling**

These are potential topics for a future program

**Action item:** Kathy will contact someone in the Heat Smart group about a community event later this year.

### **Flooding**

An open community discussion would probably attract a number of people. Our committee could help organize a forum on flooding issues. A possible site would be the school during a school holiday.

An engineering study has been conducted of the St. Mary's Brook watershed by Bill Zelinsky. The Norton Avenue bridge over the Oriskany Creek has been a problem. The bridge is sound. The proposed solution is two concrete culverts on either side of the bridge to divert water around the bridge and prevent flooding. Bridge New York is a possible source of funding. Aaron and Jon have inspected areas of the town during flooding. Needed are community members who can be flood observers to help inform needed mitigation.

Maggie Reilly, an engineer specializing in flooding issues might speak to our group. She is the Project Leader of the Sauquoit Creek Basin regarding flooding. She leads the Indivisible Mohawk Valley Climate Working Group, which has about 85 members.

**Action item:** Aaron will ask Jon Scott and Meredith Callahan (representing Clinton Central School) to take part in our October 21 meeting.

### **Food waste collection project**

We will be starting collection in early October with the GreenBucketProject owned by Melissa Shupp. Steve reported that we have 25 definite participants. [The total in October is now 43 with a start date of October 13.]

### **EV charging station**

Garry reported that the codes department has approved the electrical hook-up at the Arena, with an automatic shut-off in the case of a surge or other emergency. The Town is now waiting for the EV unit to be delivered. We hope to advertize this in the *Waterville Times* once it is installed.

### **Solar projects**

A decision by the Kirkland Planning Board regarding the solar project on Kirkland Avenue is still unknown. There will be a meeting on September 27 in Lombard Town Hall.

One of the solar projects projected for the forest land crossing Kirkland and New Hartford boundaries has been cancelled because of the difficulty of access. The Tug Hill Land Trust is still possibly interested in the land. A purchase offer of 1.6 - 1.9 Million dollars was rejected.

**Sustainable agriculture** is a potential topic for a future meeting.

Sally Carman  
Secretary