

Minutes of the Kirkland/Climate Smart Community Task Force

Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator Pro Tem; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Sally Carman, Secretary; Shirley Knop; Geri Gogel; Kathy Collett; Liseli Haines; Bryan Roy; Samantha Francisco; Kathlyn Coluccio

The minutes for August were approved.

Town of Kirkland Bronze Certification

More information is needed for resubmittal of the Town application in December. Alan checks the email account and updates the website. Any suggestions or comments should be sent to Alan. Information on the Repair Café needs to be included on the website. Also, the raffle items at the farmer's market should be included: compost and rain barrels and a small tree.

Action item: any photos of the farmer's market or the June car show should be sent to Alan and Alma

A tab entitled "What can I do" requires more ideas. Alan will decide what to include.

Action item: send ideas to Alan and Alma, such as hints to ameliorate climate change.

Samantha will look at the Town's certification requirements to determine what still needs to be done. The final due date is January 9.

Repair café

The next repair café is scheduled for Saturday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. James Church. Publicity is planned. Liseli has a conflict. Steve volunteered to act as host - leading attendees to the right place. The idea is to help people learn how to make repairs on their own.

The Town Board will change after the election with several candidates for some of the positions.

Action item: Kathy will send the poster and information to Alan for the website and Facebook page. Publicity will be submitted to the *Waterville Times*.

Climate Action Plan

Alma Lowry, Geri and Steve attended a meeting with the Village Mayor. Clinton already has a Master Plan. They will attempt to mesh it with a Community Climate Action Plan with the goal of sustainability. Suggestions include solar panels at the water treatment plant. They have one electric truck but other electric utility vehicles are difficult to obtain and expensive.

The idea is to look at sustainability ideas in early October to determine what a climate action plan

will look like. Prof. Aaron Strong has students looking into how much solar panels will save in terms of electricity. Hopefully community engagement meetings in the spring will result in brainstorming and additional ideas. Clinton Kirkland Improvement Corporation (CKIC) meetings might be a way to get the community involved. (<https://ckic13323.org/>)

Also, possibilities for grants need to be investigated. Another meeting with the Mayor is planned.

Additional ideas resulting from the CKIC meetings are: more sidewalks, public bathrooms, a community pool, accessible crosswalks between the Village Green and the KAC and the Fire Department, a youth center. We might solicit ideas through the CKIC newsletter and the Kirkland Town Library newsletter. Alma's students are developing an application for a phone or tablet that will make it easier to determine what is recyclable.

Expanding the Task Force

Do we need to recruit new members and how do we do it? We could advertise with a description of what we do in the *Waterville Times*. Members do not need to live in the Town. Our brochure could be distributed more widely. (It is currently at the Village and Town offices as well as the Kirkland Town Library.)

New project ideas

We could advertise more places to recycle items. Utica Creative Reuse (734 Columbia Street, Utica, NY 315-922-1976) has used art and craft items for sale and accepts donations. Various charities advertise on Facebook. Second-chance tools are sold in Utica. (717 Court St., Utica, NY 315-917-3337)

Alan reported that the EV charger for the Arena is proceeding. An agreement was reached with the original company. The Arena parking lot is being repaved and then the chargers will be installed soon thereafter. There will be two electric charging stations available for a fee.

Any links that should be added to the website should be sent to Alan.

The next meeting will be on October 16 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Sally Carman
Secretary