

Minutes of the Kirkland Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force

February 17, 2022

6:30 pm

Present: Steve Orvis, coordinator; Sally Carman, secretary; Alan Cole, webmaster; Liseli Haines, Steve Bellona, Joanne Gilles, Village liaison; Alma Lowery; Kathy Collett; Mona Perrotti; and new members: Alicia Lührssen-Zombek and Carol Drogus.

The new members introduced themselves: Maya is a sophomore at Hamilton College, and Carol is a retired professor from Hamilton College and Colgate University.

The minutes were approved.

Flooding town meeting

An email from Aaron Strong sent prior to the meeting described the work already done. Jon Scott and Maggie Reilly are working with Aaron on setting up a town meeting for late March. At the first meeting Maggie will describe "Water 101" which details the many factors that contribute to flooding. A second meeting is planned for April or May,

Various possible venues for the meetings were discussed. These include: Kirkland Town Library (upstairs room), Kirkland Art Center (gallery), Fire station in Clark Mills, Veterans of Foreign Wars building on Franklin Ave., St. James Hall on Williams St. The meeting will be hybrid - in-person and on Zoom with technical help from the IT department at Hamilton College.

Action item Carol Drogus will call the various venues to determine availability. Steve Bellona will check with the KAC, though that space has limited capacity.

Publicity: We can ask Jackie at the Chamber of Commerce, and the Village will put it on their website (Joanne). Sally is willing to make flyers.

Heat Smart town meeting

An application has been sent to NYSERDA to approve a meeting. Amanda and Alysia will provide help in the presentation. Co-sponsors could be: Clinton Chamber, Hamilton College, the Village and the Town. Five or six vendors could present information on what they have to offer. Some have different things to offer. These include: air- or ground-source heat pumps or geo-thermal systems. All vendors have been vetted by NYSERDA.

Kathy offered her house as a model of a air-source heat pump. It is an 1840 farmhouse. It might be possible to do a videotaped tour.

Timing was discussed. April 22 is Earth Day and it might be planned around that.

Education plan

Alma said that she has been pursuing an assessment of the level of knowledge about climate change in the community. This includes:

Aaron's survey about renewable energy that was sent to residents in Kirkland.

HEAP - the environmental group at Clinton High School, with advisor Meredith Callahan which has done a survey of engagement that was sent to parents of high schoolers

Mapping of Oneida County done by Yale regarding attitudes

A survey done by the Kirkland Clinton Improvement Committee for their DRI proposal Data is available at the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Community backyard meetings arranged by the Kirkland Town Library. An important issue

raised was walkability

Communication through the sign in the corner of the part is an option. This is updated by Laura Stolls at the Kirkland Town Library

Electric vehicle charging stations

The one at the Arena is still in process. Carol noted that more stations are needed closer to the shopping district. Dollar General controls their parking lot. There are two Village parking lots: next to the Barber Shop and across from the Clinton Historical Society. These might be options.

Master plan

The mayor of the Village, Elizabeth Tantillo, has obtained a grant of \$50,000 for Clinton to develop a master plan. Plans might include electric charging stations, green spaces, etc. A consultant is being chosen to help develop a plan and there will be community meetings to discuss ideas. It will take from six months to two years to fully develop a plan. Joanne and Steve B will let Elizabeth know that our committee is interested in giving input.

Solar farm

Kathy wrote a letter to the company developing the solar farm on Kirkland Avenue requesting that native plants and trees be used. The Town was asked to forward the letter to the company. Sally asked if anyone had heard of NexAmp community solar - they have been sending mailings and indicate they are using native plants,

New York State laws

Mona reported that there are projected to be 3 million electric vehicles in New York State by 2035. All new furnaces and new appliances must be electric by 2035. The Climate Advisory Council is soliciting input until the end of April.

Action item: Kathy will forward via email the link to the site in order to view the slide show:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/lqidmet ???>

Green Bucket Project

The project will end in late March. We hope to have statistics from Melissa Shupp to present to the Clinton Board in April.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 17 at 6:30 pm.

Sally Carman
Secretary