

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Community Task Force August 18, 2022

Present: Steve Orvis, Coordinator; Alan Cole, Webmaster; Sally Carman, Secretary; Liseli Haines; Shirley Knop; Kathy Collett; Mona Perrotti; Alma Lowry; Brendan Marris; Steve Bellona

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Education Plan

Alma reported that the plan is complete except for the vulnerability assessment (updated from the 2020 report). We need to agree on our two top priorities.

Liseli reported on a subcommittee meeting regarding the Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission. They are in the organizational stage. Jon Scott is the link with the Town. Aaron is currently in Alaska and will be taking part when he returns. Amy Wyatt representing NYSERDA is also taking part.

The St. Mary's Creek Study headed by Jon Scott is mostly complete but results need to be publicized.

Feedback from residents who have experienced flooding is needed and data gathered about where it is happening. A public survey is suggested. The Sherman Brook will also be studied. Flooding has occurred on Old Bristol Road and old Kirkland Avenue as well as other areas.

The next meeting of the Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission will be on Thursday, September 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. It is too soon for a public meeting. Our group could help with publicizing a meeting.

A mapping project is a long-term project they are working on to develop information about flooding sources. This is supported by Oneida County, with a link at: oc.gov.net.

Action item: Alma will finalize the Education Plan with the two priorities, the Heat Smart Campaign and Flooding Issues.

Fleet transportation

More information is needed.

Community Campaign

A Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) would be worth 18 points from NYSERDA. Alan and Carol Gable have experience with this in other areas. It requires municipality cooperation.

Building Committee

Steve reported that this subcommittee met. It would cost several thousand dollars for a full energy audit. Amanda is working on an assessment, not an audit, for the Village on alternatives. A Hamilton College student did this for the Town highway garage. A benchmark has been done - Aaron and Carol Gable will have a full report on this.

Farmer's market tables

Our table at the Clinton farmer's market has included a petition regarding a sidewalk along Meadow Street/Franklin Avenue in the Town.

People to staff the biweekly table from 10 - 12 or 12 - 2 are needed.

Clinton Art and Music Festival.

The Chamber of Commerce is again holding a Festival on the Green from 10 - 4 on Saturday, August 27. We will have a table. It includes a plant sale by the Wild Ones group which should attract interest. The Kirkland Trails group will also help,. People are needed to staff the stable - Steve will be out of town but will circulate a list.

Heat Smart Meeting

There will be a meeting on the Heat Smart group on October 20 at 4:30 in the Town Hall. They will be discussing the next step - perhaps legislation.

Solar Project

The solar project involving land adjacent to the Town Park in New Hartford and including the Town of Kirkland was discussed. The proposal is to clear cut the trees to put up solar. Some of this lies along the Sherrill Brook and could cause flooding. Jim Bramley of Kirkland Trails has asked for other groups to support the opposition to the project. We need to check with the Boards of both Clinton and Kirkland to see if it falls under our mandate to take a position.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be Thursday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Sally Carman
Secretary