

Minutes of the Kirkland/Clinton Climate Smart Committee February 9, 2021 6:30 p.m.

Present: Alan Cole; Shirley Knop, Carol Gable (Coordinator), Sally Carman (Secretary), Steve Bellona (Clinton Mayor), Prof. Aaron Strong, Alma Lowery, Mona Perrotti, Kathy Collett, Gary Colarusso (Kirkland Deputy Superintendent)

Carol shared that The Waterville Times printed an article about the Climate Smart designation for Kirkland. There is a proposed solar farm on Kirkland Ave. It will be less than 25 megawatts so will need to be approved locally.

The CSC designation allows the village and town to each request a \$5,000 award for continued work on building sustainable communities. A letter needs to be sent NYSERDA requesting the funds and describing how the municipality plans to use. No follow up reporting or cost sharing is required.

Carol suggested the funds could be used to support additional CEC action items which would allow the village and town to earn 3000 points needed to obtain a grant of \$10,000. If 4000 points are obtained, the grant is \$20,000. Since we are early in the new billing cycle for NYSERDA, there is better chance that the money will be available. (There are 40 grants of \$10,000 available for our region.) Gary has some ideas on use of funds such as an EV charging station may be possible and possible locations are: the police station in Clark Mills (but this is not near stores), Clinton Arena which already has 220 power for freezing the ice and a large parking lot, Clinton Agway, or Hannaford's. Another possibility is to use to assist with green waste disposal and current place this is being disposed is getting full so town may need to pay for such disposal going forward. Garry previously sent a description of the town's yard waste program to Carol to post to the CSC portal.

For the larger grants available, Garry suggested looking to replace furnace in Lombard Hall. The building is not heated adequately for the offices on the second floor, and the church that rents on the third floor. The building is used by village and town, but owned by an association, however, which may complicate things.

Action item: This letter must be submitted in 90 days, and Amy Wyant, our CEC coordinator can assist. Carol and Gary will meet with her to discuss this and ideas for applying for additional funds. People may send ideas they have on use of funds to Garry.

Steve Bellona was not present and Aaron did not have time to review the possible action item of participating in FEMA's ranking system for flooding.

Action item: Aaron will research and touch base with Steve Bellona and share findings/recommendations at March meeting. work with Steve Bellona in March on a rating system for FEMA.

Food waste program: Steve reported that the sub-committee is meeting with the mayor on a proposed pilot project including a survey. The pilot project would involve about 50 residents, and their food waste would be collected every two weeks. The survey would determine how many residents would take part, or how many would be willing to take their compost to a central location, also how many are currently composting. Carol noted that Canton has a successful program in which residents take their food waste to a central location. The waste would be in clear plastic (hopefully compostable) bags. The bags are separated out at OHSWA.

Clinton Action Plan (CAP)- Alma reported on aspects of the plan and option of developing a CAP for just the municipalities or a CAP for the full communities which would include government buildings. Community engagement and education are required if a CAP for full communities developed. People agreed that CAP involving community was the preferred path.

Requirements for CAP include emission reduction, climate-smart land-use, etc. First a baseline assessment is needed and then a way to assess if goals are met. Education and outreach to communities will be required to develop goals, priorities, targets, and a plan to carry out and assess. What do people want to know about? What topics are of interest to community members? One idea might be to hold an electric car event to raise awareness of the benefits of these. Carol noted that Canton had a clean energy fair with cars, music and a parade. Would separate events be needed, one for the Village and one for the Town? Cazenovia also had a clean energy fair. Sally mentioned at an environmental event was held at the Arena about 15 years ago, organized by Richard Morris. Aaron suggested that there be an event-planning committee. A steering committee would set benchmarks, determine achievable goals, and develop an action plan. Kathy noted: The point is not just to earn points, but to make a difference. Both the Town and Village will need to vote on a resolution in support of developing a community climate action plan.

Action item: Aaron and Alma will work on an instruction education piece with the goal of involving the larger community including the schools. This includes identifying the experts in various fields. Aaron will give examples of plans at the next meeting. He will work on benchmarks which outline the current situations. The next meetings will take place on the second Tuesdays of March, April, and May at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Sally Carman  
Secretary

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