

Climate Smart Communities Task Force  
Minutes of the First Monthly Meeting  
May 6, 2020 via video teleconference 7pm-7:54pm

Present

Steve Powers CSC Chair, CAC Rep  
Bruce Shenker CSC Coordinator, NLR Rep To CC Env Management Council  
CAC Rep Jenna Barbary-Glovsky  
Steven Dono  
Marc Frey  
Marsha Kessler  
Adelia Moore  
Elizabeth Poreba  
Carole Roseman  
Sarah Steadman  
Cathy Wilkerson

Tistrya Houghtling Town Supervisor  
Jill Falchi-Henck- Clean Energy Coordinator  
And members of the public

Absent- CAC rep Bob Gilson

Chair Steve Powers began with a welcome to members of the newly-formed Taskforce.

After members briefly introduced themselves, Supervisor Houghtling described the steps toward achieving Clean Energy Communities status that the town has already taken which will also be used towards the Climate Smart Communities accreditation. They are:

- benchmarking of energy usage of government buildings,
- energy code enforcement training
- outdoor lighting upgrade to LED lights
- a unified solar permit, adoption of a renewable energy ordinance

Another step — installation of an electric vehicle charging station — is under negotiation.

She cautioned that revenue decreases caused by COVID-19 mean that the Town Board must cut between 130,000 and 260,000 dollars from its budget, so there is no funding for further projects such as solar panels for the Town Hall. In order to become eligible for grants, the Task Force will need to look for steps among those listed on the Climate Smart Communities Certification Action Checklist that could be taken without spending money.

Jill Falchi-Henck, Clean Energy Coordinator for the Regional Planning Commission, spoke next. She explained the relationship between Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities. The former, CEC, is administered by The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) while the latter, CSC, is administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

New Lebanon's steps to become CEC certified have also worked toward CSC certification, so that the town may be halfway to Bronze status, the 1st certification level. Bruce Shenker pointed out that the town has already completed several of the items that are listed on the Checklist; such as, the farmers' market, recycling bins in the Town Hall, and the Natural Resources Inventory.

Jill Falchi-Henck pointed out that one action on the list, Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory, is a priority for receiving CSC grants (when they become available) and that members of the task force might have the wherewithal to complete it themselves. She will share a tool available to help with compliance.

Steve Powers concluded the meeting by saying the Task Force's goal is to achieve as many items on the Checklist as possible to achieve certification. He, Bruce and Marc Anthonisen would meet to come up with a plan of action, while Task Force members should examine the Checklist to determine actions that might be feasible.

The next meeting will be held on June 3 at 7PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Poreba  
Secretary