

Climate Smart Communities Task Force  
October 7, 2020 Minutes  
via video teleconference

Present

Steve Powers CSC Chair, CAC Rep  
Bruce Shenker CSC Coordinator, NLR rep To CC Env Management Council  
Bob Gilson, CAC Rep  
Elizabeth Poreba  
Marc Anthonisen advisor

Jill Falchi-Henck Clean Energy Coordinator  
Peg Munvez

Absent

Jenna Barbary-Glovsky CAC Rep  
Marsha Kessler  
Adelia Moore  
Sarah Steadman  
Cathy Wilkerson

(Attendance was limited because of a wind storm causing power and internet disruptions.)

After approval of the minutes, Steve reported that he had set up Facebook groups for both the Town and the CSC. Per the Town Board's requirements, it is not possible to comment on these pages, and only Steve can post. It was agreed that we need to find some way for people to share reactions to the content. Steve indicated he will add an email contact address. He urged members to spread the word about both pages. The Town page already has 300 members; the CSC has 65.

The CSC has had a presence at the Farmer's Market for the last 4 Sundays, with a banner, a display of bikes to give away to community members, and volunteers to discuss individual and community composting. When asked, Jill was dubious if this outreach would count as an action for education, but she would look into it.

CSC grants are pending and will probably not be available this year.

Jill is attending a meeting about updating the data for the Community Green House Gas Inventory ( PE2 Action) and will have more information about it next week.

Bruce has been updating a database of the status of CSC Action items and is caught up.

Jill and Cara's presentation about Community Solar at the next Town Board meeting on October 13 will be promoted on the Town and CSC Facebook pages. The format and venue of the meeting has not yet been determined. It was agreed that online presentations were preferable. Perhaps the presentation could be recorded and disseminated, then followed by questions and answers on Zoom or in person.

CSC submitted an article about its activities which was published in this month's Grow the Valley. The CSC will contribute to the town newsletter as well and the deadline for submissions to the next edition is October 19.

.Liz reported that the Social Media subcommittee had decided to make the CSC page a course in "CSC 101" with frequent, short, illustrated posts. The key is to keep the site active and to help residents see how the CSC's work affects them. Peg expressed an interest in joining this committee.

In his update, Marc said that bike repairs have been extremely successful, totaling 20 bikes repaired and distributed and 20 refurbished so far. Moy Wong does the repairs, amounting to about 10 a week. Marc pointed out that, while Moy will continue with repairs, someone else needs to be found to replace Marc in managing the pick up and delivery of bikes. He said the bike effort is a model for moving forward with a Free Store (Resource Recovery Center) and offers a huge opportunity. While not big enough to form a non-profit, it could be managed transparently by a trusted person. Peg mentioned that a tool swap once planned for Habitat for Humanity but never carried out received much interest from the community.

Bob said that he is creating a spreadsheet for a Fleet Inventory (PE3) and needs to find additional information, such as the weight of the vehicles. He will have the inventory ready for the next meeting.

Jenna not being present to report on composting, Marc only reported that the flyer is being widely distributed. In its next printing, information about the location of the Community Garden should be made clearer.

Bruce said that the proposal to make the Environmental Management Committee into a Climate Smart Community working group for the county was well received. Members of the EMC were assured that the CSC's role would be only to recommend actions.

Marc reminded members that he is composing a final, 60-page report recapping all that the CSC has done and outlining steps necessary on the "Path to Silver." His Cornell advisor, Professor Rebecca Brenner, is interested in having other students work with the CSC, particularly helping with the Farmers' Market, the Resource Recovery Center, and a Vulnerability Assessment. He noted that climate change has expanded the list of the Town's vulnerabilities to include drought, wildfire, and invasive species, among other potential dangers.

Steve pointed out that there are now two vacancies on the Task Force. It was agreed that it would be good to recruit young people to fill them. Bob said he would reach out to the high school where he has a connection.

It was agreed that the next meeting, on November 4, will take place via Zoom.

With most of the members already offline because of the windstorm, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Poreba, Secretary