

**Town of Stuyvesant**  
**Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting**  
**July 23, 2024**

Present: William Schneider, Maria Ausherman, Seamus Donahoe, Carol Leber, Phyllis Scannell, Kathryn Schneider, Hannah Shepard, Jim Werkowski

Absent: Brian Chittenden, Bob Green, Lee Jamison, Keegan Oneal, Paula Van Meter

**Minutes:** Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

**Reports at Town Board Meetings:** It was announced that there will be a meeting about the work to be done on the Stuyvesant Falls bridge on August 8 at 6:00. Several task force members plan to attend. Hannah will go to the board meeting on August 8, and Carol will attend on September 12, 2024.

Announcements – Kathy will share an email about a webinar by the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership on identifying and documenting invasive species through iMapInvasives on July 25. Preregistration is required. Partners for Climate Action is also sponsoring another Climate Action Mixer in Kingston on September 19 for 4-7 and Pollinate the Hudson Valley is presenting their Pollinator Action Guide at local libraries including Roeliff Jansen in Hillsdale on August 15 at 6 PM, and Hudson on September 11 at 5:30 PM.

**Old Business—Reports and Updates**

Progress on CSC Actions – Kathy reported that she and Keegan submitted our grant proposal for a Natural and Cultural Resources Inventory for the town. The grant total is about \$37,000 with most of the money going to a consultant to do the work and about \$8,000 in match provided from volunteer time working on administrations and participation on the committees. We were grateful for support from a long list of town officials, Stuyvesant stakeholders, and local conservation groups.

NYSERDA CEC update – Hannah reported that she had been contacted by the auditing firm and they want to do the garage audit on August 2<sup>nd</sup> when she is not available. Bill is available to attend in her stead and she is working to coordinate with town officials. We are anxious to have the audit results to apply for more funds from CEC before the deadline in September. Hannah will check with Tara to see if there is any flexibility since the audit scheduling and report are outside of our control.

Trex Recycling – Carol found out that our second bench has not yet left the factory. We will become eligible to apply our collections toward another bench in October.

Columbia County Climate Smart Committee – Kathy reported that planning continues for the Climate Carnival from 11-3 on September 14, 2024, at the Chatham Fair Grounds. Don Meltz

would like representation from every CSCTF in the county. It appears enough people from our group will be available to cover a table (Bill, Kathy after 2, Jim, Phyllis, Carol, Seamus, others?). Kathy will complete the online application and arrange to get signatures on the Fairground Use Agreement and talk to Ron about a certificate of insurance. We will use this as an opportunity to publicize the Regenerating Life film showing on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Kathy also reported that the county government committee approved a resolution for the Columbia County Climate Smart Task Force to apply for a \$60,000 NYSERDA grant to develop a Community Action Plan for the county that will identify the largest sources of greenhouse gas emission and sinks in the county, set goals for their reduction, and outline a set of initiatives to reduce them. This resolution passed without support from our supervisor, who wanted to limit the study to government operations, and with considerable advocacy from Brenda Adams, the supervisor from Canaan.

Regenerating Life film showing – Seamus and Maria will work on putting together publicity materials for this event, some of which will be needed for the Climate Carnival in September. We should be able to copy things at town hall and the website has a lot of good material that can be adapted for our use.

### **New Business**

New solar proposal – We were approached by Lydia Miner from a PR firm that is working on a new 3.5 MW solar project by Renewable Properties, LLC located on a 20-acre parcel south of CR 46 and west of NY 9 on land owned by the Altomer family. They plan to use agrovoltatics and graze sheep on the property. They have decided that they will present to the planning board first and may want to talk to us later. While we would be happy to hear about their proposal and ask questions, the group consensus was that we should not advocate for or against any proposed projects.

Comprehensive Plan Representative from Climate Smart -The committee has been appointed and Jim, Bill, and Paula are on it as well as Cathy Knott, Jason Demarest, Katherine Vorwald, Kevin Haberland, Kristina Kwacz, Margret Pino, Kim Mendez, Quade Kirk, and Tim Hotaling.

**Next meeting (note the date change)** – August 20, 2024, 7:00 pm, Town Hall.