

Town of Stuyvesant
Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting
August 20, 2024

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

Absent: Brian Chittenden, Bob Green, Paula Van Meter

Minutes: Minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Reports at Town Board Meetings: Carol will attend on September 12 and Jim will attend on October 10.

Old Business—Reports and Updates

Partners for Climate Action – Information about the Climate Action Mixer in Kingston on September 19 for 4:30-7:30 was shared by email. Preregistration is required. Kathy, Bill, Lee, Hannah, and Keegan expressed interest in attending and perhaps carpooling.

Trex Recycling – Carol reported that we have collected 1,111 pounds of plastic film. We become eligible to begin accumulating pounds toward another bench on October 4th. The new bench has been delivered and will be installed at the new pickleball court after a concrete pad is poured.

Garage Audit and Clean Energy Upgrades Grant proposal- The garage audit was conducted on August 2nd. Bill and Ron Knott were in attendance. Because we had been warned that funds were going fast, Hannah submitted a request for \$10,000 to be applied to energy upgrades for the garage based on recommendations in the audit. We received the audit report just before the meeting and learned that the recommended actions included inexpensive items and much more expensive projects in excess of \$10,000. As a result, our grant proposal was rejected. Bill will explain the situation to Ron and ask him to get an estimate for adding heat pumps to the office areas of the garage before we reapply for funds from NYSERDA. We still have \$3,000 left from our original Designation Grant.

Regenerating Life film showing – Seamus shared a poster he had created for publicity to be distributed after Labor Day. Maria agreed to MC the event and Seamus will introduce the film. The film is now available to rent on Amazon if anyone wants a preview. Seamus and Maria will share the press release with Matt Pavlov so we can take advantage of publicity via the library. Maria will talk to Eric Burch about using Mario’s popcorn machine. We need to be aware that this event conflicts with the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail October Fest that day so people will need to arrange their time carefully around the two events.

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

distributed paperwork that needs to be completed for us to participate. Kathy has submitted the application and will follow up the Ron Knott for the Fairground Use Agreement and insurance certificates. We will have a 12' x 12' space. Bill will work with Hannah to get her tables and chairs to the Fair Grounds, and with Lee for the popup tent and banner. We will use this as an opportunity to publicize the Regenerating Life film showing on October 19th. Maria will have more information cards made and create an accomplishments poster. She will also have publicity materials for the film. Some of us may have native plant seeds for distribution. Kathy has seed envelopes if anyone wants to pursue this, they should contact her.

Comprehensive Plan – The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for September 16 at 6:00. Jim and Bill plan to attend

Update on Altomer Solar – Bill declined to submit comments for the group.

Updates on CSC Actions – Jim reported that he submitted information for his actions, but they do not appear to have been reviewed yet. Hannah has decided to use heat pump data for the Clean Energy Upgrades. Carol is investigating whether the town has a procurement policy and Kathy and Keegan will not hear about the grant proposal until November.

New Business

Stuyvesant Falls Bridge – Many of us are interested in this issue which is larger than the Climate Smart Actions around complete streets. We agreed that if members of our task force submit comments, they will be doing so as private individuals.

Next meeting – September 24, 2024, 7:00 pm, Town Hall.