

**Town of Stuyvesant
Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting
September 16, 2025**

Present: William Schneider, Maria Ausherman, Lee Jamison, Carol Leber, Kathryn Schneider, Hannah Shepard, Jim Werkowski

Absent: Brian Chittenden, Seamus Donahoe, Bob Green, Keegan Oneal

Minutes: Minutes of the August 19, 2025 meeting were approved.

Reports at Town Board Meetings

- September 11 – Jim reported that the county engineer had summarized next steps on the Stuyvesant Falls bridge, which is being evaluated for its historic significance. The process should take about a year. The town is paying \$125/ child for Stuyvesant kids to participate in Kinderhook’s summer playground program with the balance being paid by the families. The highway department has been working on road repairs and resurfacing. The town board passed a resolution to adopt the county’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. There is a survey for the County Office of the Aging that has been distributed by email that everyone should fill out. Because of the town’s existing fund balance, taxes may be reduced next year by 2%.
- October 9 – Maria will attend and report.

Old Business—Reports and Updates

Trex Recycling – Carol reported that we have continued to collect plastic film which is being credited to Kinderhook now because we cannot start working toward another bench until in October. She would like to see Kinderhook get to 1000 pounds by then. We have contributed 485 pounds toward this goal.

Hummel Park Bench Placement - Jim and Lee will explored the trails in the woods at Ken Hummel Park and believe they have a site for Stuyvesant’s next bench. The trails are overgrown and need better trail markers. These needs might be addressed at a fall workday. Joe Scrum wants to remount the kiosk in cement and has offered to put up new bluebird houses. All three fields have been mowed, and we are hoping for rain so the grass will grow and be tall when the grassland birds are present.

Columbia County Climate Smart Committee – Kathy reported that the county is still trying to finalize its contract with DEC for the Clean Energy Community grant to develop a Climate Action Plan.

PE 6 Natural and Cultural Resources Inventory update – Ron Knott, Kathy and Keegan have provided administrative documents, such as MWBE plans, EEO policy statements, Service-

Disabled Veteran Owned Business plans, and proof of insurance. Kathy has communicated this to Susan Pepe and we are now waiting to hear from the Hudson River Estuary Program.

CSC Action Review – None of our actions have been reviewed because we do not have the required number of priority actions, The next application deadline is January 9, 2026 with notification on March 6, 2026. We believe we have 110 points of the 120 required for bronze certification. We reviewed the proposed actions from February 25, 2025 and we think we can provide the required documentation for PE3 Fleet Inventory (Hannah), PE 5 Recycling Bins in Government Buildings (Carol), PE6 Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements (Jim), PE 7 Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience (Lindsey and Kathy) by the end of the year. The last two are priority actions. This gives us a deadline for getting everything documented on the website by the end of the year. Kathy will send the website credentials to Hannah, Carol, and Jim so they can review the submission procedures. Bronze in 2026!!

Partners for Climate Action Mixer – Several task force members have RSVPed to attend the PCA mixer at the Caboose in Hudson on September 25 from 4:30-7:30.

New Business

PE 5 Community Repair – The Depot Committee is planning a Repair Café for October 4 in conjunction with the town's trash day with the idea of reducing trash. Our task force can be involved in this if we want. Kathy and Bill will be away that weekend, but a number of Task Force members expressed interest in participating. We can get points for this action with proper documentation, which includes the date, time and location for at least two Community Repair events, flyers and photos, attendee sign-in sheets with the approximate number of items brought in for repairs, and information about the local Community Repair team and its goals to show a commitment to continue the program long-term. We also need to submit information on the role played by our local government, such as a copy of the announcement on the town's website and/or a description of the government's assistance in providing rent-free space. Lee will take the lead on this action.

Next meeting – Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 7:00 pm.