

Town of Stuyvesant
Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting
October 21, 2025

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

Guests: Lindsey Strehlau-Howay, Will McCall

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

Minutes: Minutes of the September 16, 2025 meeting were approved.

Reports at Town Board Meetings

- October 9 – Maria reported that at the October town board meeting the schoolhouse was being added to the Stuyvesant Landing Historic District and that the town’s new comprehensive plan was adopted by the town board. There will be no town property tax increase this year. The annual Halloween Party is this coming Saturday. There is an item on the ballot in November to increase the town’s contribution to the library and it is on the back of the ballot.
- November 13 – Hannah will attend

Old Business—Reports and Updates

PE 7 Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience – Lindsey and Will from Cornell Cooperative Extension presented their draft report for this action and much of the meeting was spent reviewing the areas of opportunity and recommendations. They will make revisions and updates based on our conversations and present it at the next town board meeting. Will will contact Ron Knott to get on the town board meeting agenda on November 13th and Bill Schneider will contact him as well.

Partners for Climate Action Mixer – Several task force members attended the mixer on September 25th at the Caboose in Hudson where they were able to network with other people involved in Climate Smart activities and enjoy the atmosphere and good food and drink.

Trex Recycling – Carol reported that we have continued to collect plastic film which will continue to be credited to Kinderhook until they get to 1000 pounds. After that we will start working toward another bench for Stuyvesant.

Hummel Park - Joe Scrum and his crew have put up the bluebird boxes. Kathy suggested we might include some targeted invasive removal against tree of heaven this spring as a part of our annual clean up. This invasive is the food plant for the spotted lantern fly and apparently if it is not available the insects move to other trees, which makes them more palatable to birds. We

think that if we had a “to do list” before the event, so people knew what they were getting into, we might be able to recruit additional help.

Columbia County Climate Smart Committee – Kathy reported that the county has submitted all its requirements to DEC so that the next steps to finalize its contract with DEC for the Clean Energy Community grant to develop a Climate Action Plan are now up to them. There are planned upgrades for 401 State Street based on the recommendations from a recent energy study. The town has reappointed Kathy as Stuyvesant’s representative to this committee for another two years.

PE 6 Natural and Cultural Resources Inventory update – Ron Knott, Kathy and Keegan have provided all administrative documents, such as MWBE plans, EEO policy statements, Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business plans, and proof of insurance. Today they were finally able to complete the final approval steps in the State Financial System. Now Susan Pepe will be able to move it forward in DEC’s contract unit for processing.

Update on CSC Actions for end of year submission toward bronze –

- PE 7 Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience (priority action) – After presentation to the town board in November, Kathy will take responsibility for updating the application for this action.
- PE 6 Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements (priority action) - Jim will update this action with language from the new comprehensive plan
- PE 3 Fleet Inventory – Hannah has contacted Ron Knott and Joe Scrum and has made some progress on this action but people have been away on vacation, so progress has been slow. She will stay on top of it.
- PE 5 Recycling Bins in Government Buildings – Carol has updated the application for this action.

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 – Lee organized a Repair Café at the Depot on October 4 in conjunction with the town’s trash day with the idea of reducing trash. 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. Lee thinks she has everything we need to document this event. We will try to hold a second café at Town Hall on Saturday, December 6 from 10-2. Lee

will organize, start the publicity, etc. and organize further at our November meeting. Carol offered to help her update the application online for this action.

Upcoming Events – Kathy shared via email information about the Partners for Climate Action Morning Coffee Series and the new Capital Region Climate Action Plan and Portal.

Next meeting – Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 7:00 pm.