

Town of Stuyvesant

Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting

November 18, 2025

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

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

Minutes: Minutes of the October 21, 2025 meeting were approved.

Reports at Town Board Meetings

- November 13 – Hannah reported that the Climate Resiliency Policy Evaluation for PE 7, presented to the town board by Cornell Cooperative Extension was well received. New LED lighting has been added to the town highway garage thanks to a grant. The Schoolhouse has been added to the Stuyvesant Landing Historic District. Columbia Memorial Hospital will be reclassified as a rural hospital, sending surgery to Catskill and increasing psychology in patient capacity. The new veterans memorial was dedicated.
- December 11 – either Kathy or Bill Schneider will attend

Old Business—Reports and Updates

Review CSC Actions for end of year submission toward bronze – Kathy did a thorough review of our complete CSC actions. We need 10 more points in addition to another priority action.

PE 3 Interior Lighting – With the addition of new LED lights in the town garage, we may be eligible for more points on this action. Kathy will send Hannah the information she received from Ron and Hannah will look it over to see if we can update the application and get more points.

PE 3 Fleet Inventory – Hannah will continue to try to get the missing data from Joe Scrum who has been on vacation. If she is unable to make progress, Bill volunteered to follow up with Joe.

PE 5 Recycle Bins in Government Buildings – Kathy noted that we might need to submit more information. Specifically, the action asks for information on the number of trash and recycling bins provided in each of the two categories to demonstrate an approximate match between the two types of bins. Procurement records for the recycling bins would also be desirable. Carol will investigate this and see what she can do to improve the application for this action.

PE 5 Community Repair – Lee is working on putting together our second community repair café on Saturday, December 6 at town hall. We should all bring stuff to be repaired and maybe snacks for the repair crew. Kathy will work with Lee to prepare the application for this action after the café is over.

PE 6 – Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements – Jim has started going through the plan to address the needs for the application. He hopes to have a draft for this priority action by our next meeting.

PE 6 – Natural Resources Inventory – We are still waiting for the fully executed contract to begin work on this action.

PE 7 Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience – Kathy talked to Lindsey about this items that need to be submitted to complete this action and has been promised that they will be sent to her soon. When they are received, she will complete the application.

Trex Recycling update– Carol reported that we have continued to collect plastic film and Kinderhook has 808 of their needed 1000 pounds. Stuyvesant has been credited with 101 pounds but we have until October 2026 to get to 1000. We agreed that the next bench would be used for the veterans memorial and that we will put one on the trail at Hummel Park later.

Columbia County Climate Smart Committee – Kathy reported that there is a committee working on plans for a coordinated climate smart program for Earth Day 2026 in April. This may include an environmentally oriented film showing at the newly renovated Crandall Theater and tree plantings in every town.

New Business

Kathy reported that she responded to an email from Toya Honeyman from Stockport, who might be interested in joining our task force.

Next meeting – Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 7:00 pm.