

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

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

Absent: Brian Chittenden, Keegan Oneal

Minutes: Minutes of the November 18, 2025 meeting were approved.

Reports at Town Board Meetings

December 11 – Kathy reported on our December Repair Café and progress toward bronze to the town board. The county will celebrate the country’s 250th anniversary at the annual Flag Day parade and it is looking for a float. DEC plans to remove trees and pave a larger area for parking at the end of Ferry Road. The Office for Aging Seniors will hold its lunches at Stuyvesant Town Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Tai Chi to follow, starting in January. Jim Werkowski was appointed Alternate to the Zoning Board, and Ethan Allen was appointed to the Planning Board with Bob Ihlenburg Second Alternate. Ryan Biggs has been hired to provide a cost estimate for repair/replacement of the Stuyvesant Falls bridge and to evaluate its historic significance. On behalf of the Town of Stuyvesant, Town Clerk, Melissa Naegli applied to the NY Association of Towns for Stuyvesant to be named a Town of Excellence. The application was read at the meeting and it included many of the activities of the Climate Smart Community Task Force. Stuyvesant was notified in December that it had received the award, and the town will pay for Melissa to travel to NYC in February to accept the plaque. In light of our good work Kathy once again asked that the Task Force be include in the budget. The budget has already been approved but Ron said he had no objections and would investigate what could be done at this late date.

January 5, 2026 – The annual organizational meeting. No regular town board meeting on January 8. Either Jim or Maria will attend.

Old Business—Reports and Updates

Review CSC Actions for end of year submission toward bronze – Kathy did a thorough review of our completed CSC actions and thanked everyone for their work over the past month.

PE 3 Fleet Inventory – Hannah received the information she needed to complete this action from Ron and submitted the required documentation. (4 points)

PE 5 Recycle Bins in Government Buildings –Carol added pictures to the application for this action. (3 points)

PE 5 Community Repair – Lee and Kathy worked together to provide the required documentation for the two repair cafes held in 2025. This took some doing because there was a limit on the number of attachments. (4 points)

PE 6 – Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements – Jim wrote the required memorandum referencing various parts of the comprehensive plan. (18 points and a priority action)

PE 7 Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience – Kathy received the final report and planning tool from Cornell Cooperative attention and completed the documentation for this action. (6 points and a priority action)

Our submitted application will have 4 priority actions and 145 points, more than enough for bronze certification assuming everything is accepted.

Trex Recycling update– Carol reported that we have continued to collect plastic film and Kinderhook has 95 of their needed 1000 pounds on the new cycle. Stuyvesant has been credited with 160 pounds to date with a cycle that ends in October 2026 to get to 1000.

Columbia County Climate Smart Committee – Kathy reported that a committee continues to plan county wide events for the next Earth Day in April 2026.

PE 6 NRI – Keegan, Kathy, and Ron met with Christine Vanderlan from the Hudson River Estuary Program on December 1st to review the workplan, budget, and reporting requirements and to ask and answer questions. Keegan is drafting the Request for Proposals. Kathy, Ron and Christine will provide feedback. The goal is to have it ready to post to the town website and send to potential applicants by Christmas.

New Business

Waterfront Committee – The town is asking for volunteers to serve on the new waterfront committee. Jim, Lee, and Maria expressed interest. We agreed that it is important for the Climate Smart Community Task Force to have someone participate.

Ken Hummel Parks – It looks like Ron plans to have the development of a management plan for Ken Hummel Park become part of the work of the recreation committee. If this is the plan, Kathy will volunteer to serve on the committee.

Task Force Composition – Kathy will request that the information on the town website about members of our task force be updated for 2026.

Next meeting – Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 7:00 pm.