



**Town of Poughkeepsie
Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

February 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm

The meeting occurred and was recorded on Zoom at the following link:
<https://zoom.us/j/99754166245?pwd=NHVFc2g0T2t0c084cniOeGRteWNnZz09>

Task Force members present: Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair

Kristen Taylor
Joan Freeman
Richard Levine
Beverly Santero
Ann Shershin
Katherine Espinosa
Stanley Merritt

- Climate Smart logos in process at DCC Service Learning/Graphic Arts students

Susan shared the designs submitted by the students (anonymously) and described the development process (they are designing for both Climate Smart and CAC). The committee gave feedback which will be shared with the professor; there was a consensus on a few strong contenders, and further design updates will be shared via email to bring this project to fruition.

- Discussion of potential for Clean Energy Communities (CEC)

We reviewed the overall structure of the CEC program, which is a separate NYS designation from CSC with its own point system but shares a number of high impact actions. In fact, obtaining CSC certification is itself an action towards CEC. Other actions that we have completed, such as LED conversion, are also applicable towards CEC. We have been awaiting the re-issue of CEC with its new “Leadership Round” particularly to re-submit our Solar for All campaign. By doing the campaign under the umbrella of CEC, we can earn points which will help to qualify the town for potential grants. At this time, we agreed to move forward with inviting our CEC liaison, Anilla Cherian from HV Regional Council, to address Board members and other key stakeholders at a Committee of the Whole (Ann will assist in arranging this). The goal of this presentation will be to familiarize those individuals with the overall CEC program and its potential benefits, as well as some specific actions that we could pursue, including the NYStretch Code. Regarding the Code, Susan attended a recent webinar (as did members of Planning), and this was followed by a conversation between Ann, Susan, and Mike Welti. The conversation was very helpful in clarifying pros and cons

for the town in being an “early adopter” of the Code. In addition, there will be a general webinar about the Leadership Round on 2/9 and Susan plans to attend. In the meantime, Susan is in contact with Danielle Salisbury to update our Solar for All scoping document for the updated action and get it submitted as soon as feasible. Since several months have elapsed waiting for this, we should probably revisit timing in order to plan public outreach when warmer weather facilitates outdoor events.

- EV charging presentation

Joan and Richard have been working very hard to develop our information in this arena, and Richard prepared a wonderful slide presentation for us synthesizing all of it. A copy of this PowerPoint is available in the Task Force materials folder on Google Drive (“Charge Stations for Town of Poughkeepsie”). We continue to identify two “prongs” of our needed work:

(1) reaching out to the business community to support them with information about installation of charging stations, incentives, etc. Central Hudson contact has indicated intention to schedule another “EV Summit” in the coming months, but we should decide if we want to try to piggyback on that event or sponsor our own.

(2) reaching out to the town government about installation on town property, which will be a necessary component of transitioning the fleet. We discussed the possibility of a “green fleet policy”, for which there are models available from neighboring communities. Our consensus was that it’s better to save such a policy for later after discussing overall town direction with the Board first, as above. Joan has extensive personal experience with vehicle selection and shared her spreadsheet as a model for this process; it reflects many variables and how return on investment is calculated over time in terms of emissions, fuel, maintenance, etc. This is also in our folder (“EV cost of ownership comparison”).

We agreed that it would make sense at this time to invite NYSERDA representative to our meeting to help us with our planning. Joan will work on scheduling this.

Information should also be communicated to the Comprehensive Plan committee. Ann and Kristin are both on that committee and can assist with this.

- Review of actions in process/planned while awaiting response to initial CSC application

1. CAPI: an update was received today from our county managers. The DEC has been given the go ahead to move contracts toward execution. While it still may take some

time, 2019 CFA awards will move forward. The remaining steps on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is a required contract document, are:

- The County continues development of the MOU.
- Once the drafting of the MOU is completed, it will be forward to the DEC Office of Climate Change for review and approval, which includes:
 1. Videoconference meeting of CAPI Dutchess members to review and answer questions related to OCC-approved MOU.
 2. CAPI Dutchess municipalities' execution of MOU.
 3. Uploading of executed MOU into Grants Gateway by County, which will complete the contracting process. API Dutchess will then be awaiting the Governor's authorization to release funds for 2019 CFA awardees.

2. Environmentally preferred procurement policy: for future consideration, we have models.
3. Composting: a cross-municipality discussion is just starting, Susan keeping tabs.
4. NRI/Open Space Plan: continues on schedule with the CAC, first public engagement event in the works.
5. Website: awaiting completion of new town site in order to request a number of updates to our page.

- Local Champions grant: we were not awarded one of the grants, but this was anticipated since the focus is on communities that are just starting to work towards initial submission. The "Lifeboats HV" organization offering this is building its local profile and we can watch for other opportunities.
- Pollinator Pathway project update: Susan continues to develop this project through the CAC. We have colleges, schools, and other organizations engaged. She presented it to the DC Environmental Management Council, which was enthusiastic, and is reaching out to other towns using the CAC listserv. The goal is cross-municipality collaboration, even though individual towns will still need their own membership. The CAC's 3/23 online workshop will be the official "launch" with our dedicated page on the Pathway website in place and linked to a crowdsourced map being developed by a Vassar student.

Next meeting: March 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht