



Town of Poughkeepsie Climate Smart Communities Task Force



April 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm

The meeting occurred on Zoom at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97694949608?pwd=UjBnR2dJR0Y1TUxLeG1OR0tOaDNGUT09>

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair
Joan Freeman
Richard Levine

Kristen Taylor
Thomas Lynch
Stanley Merritt

Beverly Santero

- Review response to initial application: Susan, Kristen, and Michelle Gluck met to review the responses. Susan created a spreadsheet containing responses to all actions submitted in January, to facilitate revision in anticipation of re-submitting and so that all task force members have access to the information; goal is to resubmit for 7/2/21. We reviewed the list and have individual responsibilities for following up regarding specific actions. The list also reflects a few potential added actions that could be ready for July. There appears to be one major reviewer error, and Michelle Gluck is contacting Office of Climate Change about it. Available in shared folder.
- Update on Solar for All campaign (SFA): Scoping document was approved by NYSERDA on 3/23/21. Campaign dates 4/1-6/30. Doc uploaded to PE8 folder along with all other SFA materials. Susan met with Danielle Salisbury CCEDC to discuss initial steps for implementation. Danielle created a timeline which is in the folder. Initial steps: Susan arranging town email, website, TV, media, press release, etc. Danielle will provide physical flyers, task force members can assist in distribution to any local spots. Susan working on library and Interfaith Council connections. Danielle reaching out to apartment complex managers. Looking ahead, Farmers Market begins 6/3, tabling in June. Ann checking on physical town newsletter. CCEDC's current grant with NYSERDA ends at the end of June 2021, so the timing works for Danielle. Ideally we can get the required 25 participants soon enough to have submission ready for July. This will also be a high impact action for Clean Energy Communities.
- Update on Clean Energy Communities (CEC): Susan and Ann met to discuss developing board support. A formal resolution and task force are not required for CEC. Ann plans to work on the Unified Solar Permit, NYSERDA template was provided. Adoption of this format would result in time and money savings. Along with LED lights and SFA campaign, we would then have at least 3 actions in place for grant program. Ann will also pursue discussion of NYStretch Code with other board members. Grants are time-limited, finite in number, and competitive and would provide the means to pursue another major action such as installation of a charging station at town hall.

- Update on county-wide composting discussion: An informal initial meeting of interested parties took place last week facilitated by Michelle Gluck out of CCEDC. Currently planning quarterly discussions - there is interest in a county-wide collaboration. Information highlighted included the intended county feasibility study, which has been delayed by covid and budget restrictions but they hope to proceed. The county Climate Smart Task Force should be involved. For our town, Susan would like to have a point person for discussions going forward. Tom has interest in this area and will look into how organics are currently handled. Richard also has interest. Kristen will facilitate discussion with Marc Pfeiffer at Highway Dept. regarding disposition of the leaves that are collected as well as brush brought to the transfer station.
- Update on NRI/Open Space Plan: First public meeting occurred 3/31 - task force members were in attendance. The meeting was very successful, and the presentation and all maps are uploaded to the project website at www.townofpoughkeepsieopenspace.com. Susan will confer with NRI steering committee to try to obtain completed NRI for July submission (as the full project will not be completed until November).
- Next steps regarding EV charging infrastructure: Last month, Jason Zimbler from NYSERDA had recommended that we start a group of business owners to help us connect with the business community. We discussed how to identify likely individuals. Susan will reach out to DC Chamber of Commerce to inquire if they are able to filter a list of members by town. Joan suggested that it will be valuable to include those who have already installed chargers to support this effort. She will look at charging maps to identify resources. Susan will contact Sustainability Coordinator at Vassar College, where there are chargers. She will also ask our member, Katherine Espinosa, about DCC contacts. Tom will contact Sustainability Committee at Marist; Kristen also has a contact at Marist. Others that should be included: Hotels, hospitals, Central Hudson? Eastdale and Hudson Heritage developers/businesses - Kristen will explore these. We will start a contact list for use in planning discussion with business community.
- Virtual meeting arrangements going forward: The town has provided Climate Smart with a Zoom sub-account so that Susan can host; this will reduce the demand on Kristen, who will focus on supporting specific actions and continuing to function as liaison to the town staff. Susan will inquire if use of a recurring meeting link is allowed.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht