



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze



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

May 5, 2022

The meeting occurred on Zoom at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91995613444?pwd=d1dacndyNzI0VEF3ZXlicFJkb1JCQT09>

Task Force members present:

Susan Karnes Hecht, Chair

Ann Shershin

Tom Lynch

Stan Merritt

Green fleet: there is no update this month concerning fleet inventory and policy.

Charging infrastructure: Kristen Taylor reported to Susan via email that the town has new code in the pipeline to support installation of EV charging infrastructure, as follows:

“The Town adopted its comprehensive plan update last fall. This paved the way for the Town to review new code language topics (like EV charger language!) and review existing code language. There is a staff level Code Update Committee (Mike Welti, Eric Hollman, Krissy Granieri - Zoning Administrator and myself with our ZBA/PB counsel working with a consultant to draft language) and an at-large Code Update Committee (Jeff Renihan, Paul Lahey, and Carl Whitehead plus the aforementioned folks). We have in the pipeline EV code language – almost ready for the Town Board public review process. More updates to come in the month of May. It will enable staff to review proposals for EV chargers whether as part of a larger development proposal or simply for installation in an existing parking lot.”

We discussed that the planned chargers for Town Hall are not expected to have free use. Other municipalities have offered this at their town halls, and it might be valuable to reach out to learn more.

Waste management: Susan reported that Dutchess County is doing a draft solid waste management plan and taking public comment. Various groups are organizing to promote the comment period and, in particular, Mothers Out Front is advocating for a shared composting site. In this context, we had a brief conversation regarding trees that are removed for development - we would like to know what happens to this organic material and if there is any relevant code or law.

Green business challenge: Feza Oktay was unable to attend but provided the following information.

- The DC Climate Smart Task Force is meeting again, he has been in touch with someone in that group about our interest in a green business program.
- The new Ulster County program is using this system: <https://ulsterny.greenbiztracker.org/>

along with a dedicated staff person to make it all happen. We should all take a look at this to generate ideas that would fit our needs.

- He spoke with someone from <https://greenbusinessbureau.com/> which is being used in Westchester and would like to know if anyone else would like to join him to have a subsequent meeting with them to get more details. While this program is designed for individual businesses to just buy a membership and start doing things to earn the seal, they do work with municipalities by providing bulk membership discounts, etc. The annual membership for a business with 10 or fewer employees is \$250, but that would be discounted depending on how many we wanted to buy. We could then figure out how we might want to offer the discounted memberships to town businesses. He asked about the idea of providing businesses with energy audits and was told that the utility companies usually provide those free of charge anyway, so we'd have to do some research to see if that's correct.

Susan commented that there is a charge for a full NYSEDA audit, which may be much more robust than what is available from the utility. Recently an organization she works with paid \$100 for this process. Susan and Ann are interested in attending a meeting with Feza.

Grants resulting from Solar Campaign: We have a strong consensus to prioritize use of the larger grant as follows:

- 1 - towards an EV for a town vehicle or police chief vehicle
- 2 - towards an additional charging location
- 3 - towards a solar installation, e.g. at the sewage treatment plant

We agreed that visibility to the public is an important consideration. Our next step is to discuss with Jay Baisley, but first Susan has a meeting scheduled with our NYSEDA liaison for a full understanding of the grant process. The Town of Fishkill purchased an EV and Ann can ask the Supervisor, who she knows, for more information.

Report from Hudson 7: Tom reported that the topic of the salt front seems to be getting a higher priority recently. Consultant Paul Malmrose from the Tighe & Bond engineering firm has proposed to NYS to do a study via H7 - a 3-year, \$400K study on the salt front and steps for the future. Tom was invited to join an advisory group which will meet on 5/18 and will include water quality experts from a variety of agencies.

NRI/Open Space Plan status: should be going to the Board shortly.

Brochure: still needs to be finished.

Review of additional possible actions towards Silver Certification: our first priority is to plan for use of the two grants that we have earned. We should review how they might result in additional points but this needs to be given our preferential attention.

A note: Susan presented at the Marist Center for Lifetime Study on 5/4/22 on the topic of municipal action, Climate Smart and CAC roles, and personal action on climate change.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 7 pm
*location/format TBA subject to change in meeting laws

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht