

**Town of Stuyvesant
Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting
June 27, 2023**

Present: William Schneider, Maria Ausherman, Brian Chittenden, Lee Jamison, Kathryn Schneider, Hannah Shepard, Paula Van Meter

Absent: Carol Leber, Bob Green

Letter of Support for Town Comprehensive Plan Grant: Everyone at the meeting signed the letter. Kathy will get Carol's signature when she is back in town and mail it with a copy to Ron Knott.

Minutes/Meeting Notes: Kathy has been sending out the meeting notes by email for review. Corrections and comments will be due before the next meeting so we can approve them efficiently at the meeting.

Climate Smart Community Task Force reports at Town Board Meetings: Hannah will report at the July 13th meeting and Lee will go on August 10th.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Benchmarking: Hannah and Paula have made significant progress in obtaining the records needed to document our town's energy use. Hannah will work on getting the information into the appropriate formats for both Climate Smart and Clean Energy actions. If done properly it can be used as an annual reporting tool and made public on the town's website, as is required to meet these actions. The town also passed Paula's resolution to improve the town's record keeping of this information so that going forward it will be easier for us and others to access.

Information Cards: We all reported approximately how many we had left and decided we should get another batch before the town's September birthday event.

Heat Pump Community Meeting and Other Educational Programs: Hannah attended the meeting in Valatie sponsored by the Capital Region Clean Energy Hub. This session was aimed at homeowners and encouraged them to apply for support. NYSERDA home energy assessments are free and strongly encouraged as a first step whereas there is a cost associated with have an energy audit. There are many opportunities for tax credits and grants, but some people find the paperwork daunting. NYSERDA has a list of approved contractors who can do audits and help with the paperwork. Hannah found this program interesting and worthwhile, and we agreed we should pursue a similar presentation in Stuyvesant to be held at town hall in the fall, possibly in September on a weekend afternoon. Bill agreed to contact the group and ask about their availability. We could ask the library to help us with publicity.

We are also interested in cosponsoring a program on the value of native plants with the Stuyvesant Garden Club. Lee will investigate the availability of Doug Tallamy's presentation on a Homegrown National Park, which has been shown in other parts of our county, and the subject

of a panel discussion at the Claverack Library. If we can get it, we might show it on our big screen at town hall. We also talked about other ways we might work with Stuyvesant Garden Club by possibly doing a garden tour of gardens that focus on native plants or pollinators as a fundraiser, or asking them to help find and identify rare plants for a Natural Resources Inventory.

County Webinar on How Columbia County is Adapting to Climate Change: This presentation is on Wednesday, June 28th at noon and preregistration is required.

Planning for September 16th Event: We agreed we would offer our information cards and ask people to give us their emails and sign up to receive information about Climate Change programs. Paula and Kathy have both read through the information on creating a Natural Resources Inventory and it seems like there might be opportunities for citizens to participate if they have certain skills or expertise. We could, perhaps, make a list of these and try to match them to people who live in Stuyvesant.