

**Town of Stuyvesant
Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting
July 25, 2023**

Present: William Schneider, Maria Ausherman, Lee Jamison, Carol Leber, Kathryn Schneider, Paula Van Meter, Rhonda Yoss-Kaplan

Absent: Brian Chittenden, Bob Green, Hannah Shepard

Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting were approved. Approved minutes of past meetings since we began meeting in November of 2022 are now posted on the town website along with the resolutions that establish our committee and appointed members.

Reports at Town Board meetings: Lee will report at the August 10th meeting and Bill will cover September 14th.

Municipal Seal Request: It turns out that we were sent this request in error. A municipal seal is needed when a Climate Smart Community applies for certification, which we have not done yet. However, Melissa was able to create a pdf for us and now we have one for future use.

Letter of Support for Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC): The group approved a letter of support for CLC's grant application to develop a County-wide Conservation Plan. This letter was sent to CLC for inclusion with their application.

Trex Recycling: Carol reported that 692 pounds of plastic film had been collected and credited to Stuyvesant as of the end of June making us eligible for a Trex bench. The new dark brown bench will be delivered to Joe Scrum at the highway department for installation at the Stuyvesant Falls playground. We will not be eligible for another bench until October.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Benchmarking: Paula reported based on Hannah's notes that Hannah has set up an account for the town with EPA's Portfolio Manager and begun entering data. She has learned that the \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program must be used to reduce greenhouse gases. We talked about approaching the town highway department to learn if it would be feasible for them to use electric weed whackers and lawn equipment.

Heat Pump Community Meeting: Bill has communicated with Fiona Meers from Albany Cornell Cooperative Extension and she is willing to do a program for us. We would like to hold this program on a Saturday in September or October. Bill will check with Melissa about the availability of Town Hall and then talk to Fiona to nail down a date.

Home Grown National Park Showing: Lee reported that the library has access to this video and Maria learned that the Stuyvesant Garden Club might be interested in co-sponsoring this program with us at Stuyvesant Town Hall. The Kinderhook Memorial Library will help with

publicity. A Sunday afternoon might work best for this kind of a gathering. Again, Bill will check dates with Melissa. Kathy will investigate the availability of a popcorn machine.

Planning for September 16 Birthday Celebration: Bill will ask to borrow the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail tent for our table. Kathy will prepare a flyer describing our accomplishments and advertising our monthly meetings. A sign-up sheet for climate related emails will be available and perhaps a document describing the Natural Resource Inventory we would like to pursue. We will also promote our heat pump presentation and Home-Grown National Park film showing, which will allow us to talk about the importance of native plants and pollinators. Paula will make origami pollinators such as bees, birds, and bats.

Next Meeting: We agreed to move our next meeting date to Monday, August 14 to accommodate people's vacations. Bill will contact Melissa to have this change announced on the town calendar.