

Town of Stuyvesant
Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting
August 14, 2023

Present: William Schneider, Lee Jamison, Carol Leber, Hannah Shepard, Paula Van Meter, Christian Sweningsen

Absent: Maria Ausherman, Brian Chittenden, Bob Green, Kathryn Schneider

Minutes: Minutes of the July meeting were approved. Carol Leber offered to take notes for this meeting.

Reports at Town Board Meetings: Bill Schneider will report at the September 14 meeting; Hannah Shepard will report at the October 12 meeting

Old Business--Reports and Updates

Planning for September 16 Birthday Celebration –

Vendor Fair from 3:30-6:30 pm at the Town Hall and the playground opposite the Town Hall Activities along Riverview Street and at the Depot (including fireworks) to be held from 6:30-8:30 pm

- The CSC will have a table at the vendor fair to be set up next to the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET).
- There was discussion regarding the table and a canopy for it. Hannah will not be able to attend but offered to lend a folding table that she has. Christian offered a door on sawhorse legs if nothing else can be found. Since the CFET will also have a table, we cannot borrow their canopy. Lee offered a canopy that she has. The banner that has been made up was unveiled.
- There was also discussion of what will be displayed and offered at the table. The postcards will be there, and it was suggested that voter registration forms be there as well. Paula has made up a ‘Bee a Pollinator’ display and has also made some origami insects to give away. Kathy has provided some handouts on native plants that she got from the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Lee indicated that she had seedlings of ‘sneezeweed’ and echinacea that she would be happy to pot up to give away if that was of interest.
- The draft ‘talking points’ of what the Committee has done and will be doing was discussed and Paula suggested some minor edits. Christian offered to make a poster size copy of the bullet points for display at the table if that was of interest.
- The Natural Resources Inventory draft sheet was also discussed, and some minor edits were suggested by Paula. It was thought to be a good idea to have it at the table with a sign-up sheet as well as the email sign-up sheet.

Heat Pump Community Meeting- Bill reported that the event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2:00 pm at Town Hall.

– Fiona Maeve Hynes from Capital Region Clean Energy Hub will be making the presentation which is expected to last for about an hour. Bill also confirmed that in addition to a notice appearing on the Town website a notice will appear in the next edition of the Kinderhook Memorial Library newsletter. The event will also be publicized at the table on Community Day.

Homegrown National Park film showing – Bill checked with the Town Clerk and the available dates in October are October 1 or October 22. Maria will be attending the Stuyvesant Garden Club meeting next week and will ask them if they have a preference regarding either of those dates.

Greenhouse gas inventory and benchmarking – Hannah and Paula reported that the benchmarking is almost complete. Hannah is awaiting some more information from National Grid.

Trex Recycling - Carol reported that the TREX bench that was earned has been received and installed in the gazebo at the playground in Stuyvesant Falls. The next six-month period to be able to earn another TREX bench starts October 2, 2023.

New Business

Report on Bond Act Listening Session – Hannah passed around the flyers she had picked up at the listening session and reported that no specific projects were discussed

Bill reiterated that the County Climate Smart Communities Task Force website is up [Climatesmart.columbiacountyny.com](https://climatesmart.columbiacountyny.com) and encouraged members to take a look at it.

Bill also reiterated that there is a Climate Action Mixer September 14, 4-7 Kingston, hosted by Partners for Climate Action. It is a free event, but people need to sign up if they wish to attend at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-action-mixer-tickets-689309512307?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshwebdesktop>

Other Business:

Lee reported that at the last Town Board Meeting Supervisor Ron Knott announced that a contract had been signed with Stuyvesant Mechanical for installation of heat pumps at the Town Hall for a total cost of \$56,000. (This will be entered toward achieving one of the goals for CSC certification for the Town.)

Lee also reported that there is a DEC webinar on flooding on August 24 from 1-2:30 if people are interested in signing up for it.

Christian mentioned to the Committee that from his work on the county level Environmental Management Council (EMC) he was wondering if there was any interest in an on-line discussion forum at the County level limited to members of the EMC, the various Climate Smart Committees and Climate Advisory Groups. The intent was to have a forum to be able to discuss further and in more depth topics which had been brought up at various meetings but were not

able to be followed up due to meeting length. He mentioned that although there was a Climate Smart Committee at County level the County was not interested in hosting such an online forum. There was some discussion of the topic with concerns expressed regarding moderating a forum and whether the ideas expressed there would be seen as representing an 'official role rather than a private opinion. No conclusion was reached by the Committee regarding such a forum.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on September 26 at 7 pm at Town Hall.