

Town of Stuyvesant
Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting
September 26, 2023

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

Absent: Maria Ausherman, Brian Chittenden, Bob Green

Minutes: Minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Reports at Town Board Meetings: Kathy Schneider will report at the October 12 meeting; Hannah Shepard will report at the November 9 meeting.

Old Business—Reports and Updates

Birthday Celebration - Stuyvesant's vendor fair and birthday celebration on September 16th was well attended. A stiff wind made it difficult to distribute literature, but people visited our table to pick up free origami pollinators, native plants, and information, and one person signed up to be involved in the Natural Resources Inventory. The fireworks were spectacular. Many thanks to all who helped.

Trex Recycling – Carol reported that we will be eligible to accumulate plastic toward another bench on October 2.

Clean Energy Community High Impact Actions – Hannah has finished populating the Energy Star Portfolio Manager and Kathy has received information from Ron Knott about the town's now completed LED streetlight conversion. Kathy and Hannah will work on getting the documentation for these two high impact actions submitted to NYSERDA, which should make us eligible for a \$5,000 grant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need to investigate the requirements and procedures for this funding—i.e., how are the funds transmitted, if a proposal is required, etc. Paula also suggested that members of the CSCTF could help enter data in Climate Smart database of Certification Actions because we have completed several projects that are eligible for points. Bill will investigate the feasibility of sharing this responsibility.

Heat Pump Presentation, October 14 – Fiona Hynes has sent Kathy materials for her introduction. Posters were distributed and people were asked to put them up at local businesses. Melissa will put publicity on the town Facebook page and the library will put it on theirs. Lee also offered to take a picture of the poster and put it on her personal page so we can share it. We agreed that we would have cider and doughnuts at the event and several people agreed to arrive early to help set up. Kathy will send a short piece to the Columbia Paper this week to get it on their calendar and write a press release to be sent out for review by the group.

Homegrown National Park Presentation, October 22 – Kathy reported that based on favorable input from several Task Force members she has begun putting together a panel for a Q and A and

discussion after the film. Tim Kennelty, a Master Gardener with expertise on native plants and invasive species has agreed to participate and she can be a resource on the importance of native plants to birds. She has also approached Keegan Oneal, a new Stuyvesant resident who is a landscape architect. She offered to ask Jamie Purinton, a landscaper from Ancram, who promotes the use of native plants in her designs. Erik Burch has said he will provide a popcorn machine and popcorn from Marios. Kathy will work with Melissa and Matt Pavlov the week before to be sure that there are no technical issues with the video. A few of us agreed to come early to set up chairs. Facebook publicity will be handled the same as the Heat Pump presentation, but the poster needs minor revisions that Kathy will work on with Lee and Christian. She will also write a press release for this event.

New Business

Decarbonization Grants and Morning Coffee Webinar – Ron Knott told Bill that the town intends to apply for one of the newly announced Decarbonization grants to offset the cost of installing heat pumps at Town Hall. We were encouraged to take advantage of the webinars that are made available to us via zoom.

Budget Request – Bill reported that he had asked for a \$500 line item for our Task Force in the town's budget for next year.

Library Climate Conversation - Carol, Kathy, and Paula attended a community conversation on climate change at the Kinderhook Library.

Next meeting October 24, 2023.