

**Town of Stuyvesant**  
**Climate Smart Community Task Force Meeting**  
**March 27, 2024**

Present: William Schneider, Maria Ausherman, Lee Jamison, Kathryn Schneider, Hannah Shepard, Jim Werkowski

Absent: Brian Chittenden, Seamus Donahoe, Bob Green, Carol Leber, Keegan Oneal, Paula Van Meter

**Minutes:** Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

**Reports at Town Board Meetings:** Jim will report at the board meeting on April 11, and Lee will attend on May 9, 2024.

**Old Business—Reports and Updates**

Trex Recycling – Bill reported in Carol’s absence that as of March 20<sup>th</sup> the town had collected 725 pounds of the 1000 pounds of plastic film needed for our next bench. We should have no trouble collected the rest of what we need by October.

Columbia County Climate Smart Committee – Kathy was unable to attend the March 7 meeting, so she reported based on listening to the online recording. The County CSC meets via zoom on the first Thursday of every month from 10-12. Anyone can view the meeting and all the past meetings have been posted to YouTube (see <https://climatesmart.columbiacountyny.com/>). A Climate Carnival is planned for September 14, 2024, at the Chatham Fair Grounds. Jolene Race is in charge and they are looking to raise \$12,000 via donations and sponsors <https://climatesmart.columbiacountyny.com/climate-carnival/donate>. The tree planting campaign may not happen on Earth Day, but many local groups are planning to plant trees. Columbia Greene Cooperative Extension has released the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plans to the towns for review <https://ceecolumbiagreene.org/climate-change-and-the-environment/climate-change-adaptation-and-resilience-plan-carp>. The county is working on a parallel effort to revise the Hazard Mitigation Plan under FEMA. This plan also has a link for review <https://tighebond.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d7ac4ffc0544c18810ca7ffdccaaf2>. The group passed a resolution asking the county to commit to providing a match so the county Climate Smart Group can apply for a grant to update the GHG inventory.

CEC Designation Grant and Benchmarking – Hannah reported that we are still waiting to be notified about the audit by NYSERDA or the auditing company and NYSERDA has still not approved our press release. We agreed that we should take the picture anyhow and plan to meet at the salt shed on May 4 at 9:00. Maria will notify Steve Taylor, who will take the picture. The highway crew will be there because it is Trash Day for the town.

Hannah is still trying to collect energy bills and data for benchmarking updates. The National Grid and solar company bills are confusing, and she needs to consult with Ron Knott for clarification.

Regenerating Life film showing – Maria reported that the film will cost \$100 for 1-50 people and \$200 for 51-100 and they are looking at Saturday, October 19 or 26 for dates, probably at town hall. We discussed partnering with CSCTFs from neighboring towns, that might have funds and approaching the Stuyvesant Town Board for support. The film is 2.25 hrs long so with an intermission and panel discussion, we are looking at a 4 hr long program.

Progress of Climate Smart Community Submissions Actions –Jim reported that he submitted information for PE 3 Interior Lighting Upgrades, which should be worth 3 points based on the square footages he calculated. H expects to make progress on HVAC upgrades and solar installations in April.

Hannah reported that she has been in touch with Ron Knott, and he is pursuing information for PE3, the Fleet Inventory.

Maria has been in touch with Tara about PE6, Infrastructure for Biking and Walking. She learned that we can get credit for Stuyvesant's work on the Electric Trail and bike racks that have been installed around town. AARP has a walking audit too app that might be of interest and we could think about doing a bike workshop. Kathy and Keegan met with Don Meltz in the county planning office to talk about the Natural and Cultural Resources Inventory, PE6. As far as we can tell, the Hudson River Estuary Program has not yet released their call for grant applications.

### **New Business**

Kathy shared the following list of upcoming Events and Webinars. The ones by the NY Planning Federation require membership but Kathy thinks the town has a membership and has been able to register as a member of the Stuyvesant's CSCTF.

Saturday, April 6, 2024, 2:30-4:30, Capital Region Clean Energy Hub, Hudson Energy Forum with Didi Barrett, Hudson Library

Thursday, April 11, 2024, 5:30-10:00, Partners for Climate Action, Feast for Forest Health by 4 chefs, The Caboose, Hudson

Monday, April 29, 2024, noon-1:00, NY Planning Federation, Low-Cost Pollinator Actions, Learn at Lunch via zoom

Wednesday, May 8, 2024, noon-1:00, NY Planning Federation, Historic Preservation, Learn at Lunch via zoom

**Next meeting** – April 23, 2024, 7:00 pm, Town Hall.