



Minutes of the February 1, 2023, Meeting Held on Zoom at 7 p.m.

Task Force Members Present: Jason Mayer, Mark Varian, Franco Carucci, Tara Hoey, Steve Mazzuca, Holly Shader, Ikumi Sato (Intern).

Task Force Members Excused: Suger Rowinski, Rebecca Carucci, Kim Mayer, Rick Irizarry, and Stephen Weir.

Guests: Naseem Haidaowi, Samrat Pathania, Marcy Cleveland, Dara Hall.

Opening Remarks

Jason opened the meeting. The minutes of the January 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Presentation

MHET. Jason introduced representatives of Mid-Hudson Energy Transition: Marcy Cleveland, Acting Executive Director, Dara Hall, Corporate Counsel, and Samrat Pathania, Board Member. MHET has recently been chosen by Kingston to be administrator of the city's Community Choice Aggregation program. The non-profit's mission is to offer more than a 100% renewables – sourced electricity supply. It will be a one stop shop for home energy efficiency. While the firm's implementation plan has yet to be formally approved by the Department of Public Service, MHET hopes to provide full-service sustainability consultation, opt-out community solar membership, estimates, incentives, and contractor referrals to enable homeowners and small commercial entities to de-carbonize their homes and businesses. The company expects to become fully involved with the community and to coordinate its efforts with local workforce development. MHET has also submitted a CCA proposal to Newburgh, and will be reaching out to other communities in the Hudson Valley. The current timeline is to have a new energy supplier for Kingston's CCA in place by the summer of 2023.

Intern Introduction

New Intern. Jason introduced Ikumi Sato, a senior at SUNY New Paltz, who is starting an internship with Climate Smart Gardiner this month. Welcome Ikumi! She will be working with Tara and Stephen Weir on development of the Town's Emergency Management Plan. She and Tara have recently met with Nicole Lane from Gardiner Library about a grant the library may receive to install a back-up generator. This would enable the building to be used as a cooling/warming center. See more below.

Recurring Business

Cooling Centers and Town Emergency Plan. Tara stated that Michael Madison, Ulster County Deputy Director/Emergency Manager, is willing to speak with her regarding the county's approach to warming/cooling centers. Jason will send Tara the Climate Smart Portal information regarding DEC Climate requirements. Tara, Ikumi, and Steve Weir will meet with Marybeth and Emily at Town Hall to decide on next steps.

Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Mark pointed out that the Inventory needs to be adopted by the Town Board. Franco will try to get this on the Town Board's agenda next month. He also reported on his meeting with Kale Roberts from ICLEI. Kale discussed future cohort opportunities, including an 18-month program on developing a Community Climate Action Plan. He also stated that ICLEI can provide services to develop a Community Climate Action Plan for Gardiner for a price of about \$20,000. They could also help us procure grant funding for this service. Kale reiterated that the ICLEI resources are available to all town committees and boards.

CCA. Franco received the revised paperwork that the Board will have to approve to enable the town to receive its electrical energy through Community Choice Aggregation with Joule Community Power as Administrator. Jeff Domanski of Hudson Valley Energy presented the revised CCA program to the Town Board on January 10 and also presented a virtual community outreach session on January 21. The tentative schedule is to go out for bids in March and have pricing quotes by May. At that time the Town will have to decide whether to sign on with the winning energy supplier.

LED. We haven't heard from Central Hudson or the New York Power Authority.

Group Purchasing Program. Jason reported that Sustainable Hudson has asked if we would like to join Marbletown in a marketing campaign for the program. Marbletown is seeking a grant to provide funds for marketing materials. Jason suggested that a task force member should head up this project.

Green Purchasing Procedure. Jason said he has had no reply from Tracy Bartels to his invitation to join one of the task force meetings to present Ulster County's green

procurement program. We will have to check the policy out for ourselves and also contact NYSERDA for a template.

Building Audits. No change from last month.

Community Solar Array. Currently, the project is on hold.

Danskammer: Franco reported there was no change.

New Business

Walkill Climate Club. Members of the club from Walkill High School will be attending an upcoming task force meeting to discuss projects that they are working on.

Repair Café. The next Repair Café will be held at Gardiner Library on Sunday, Feb. 26. Holly stated that the firm **iFixit** is providing the group with a Fix-it Tool Kit for digital repairs.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 1 at 7 p.m. via a teleconferencing call. Stay safe, save energy and enjoy your environment!



Submitted by Mark Varian