



Minutes of the February 2, 2022, Meeting Held on Microsoft Teams

Task Force Members Present: Jason Mayer, Mark Varian, Steve Mazzuca, Rick Irizarry, Franco Carucci, Rebecca Carucci, Kim Mayer, Tara Hoey, Holly Shader and Stephen Weir, Recording Sect.

Task Force Members Excused: None

Opening Remarks

Jason opened the meeting. The minutes of the January 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Jason briefed that the Bronze Certification sign had been completed and will be posted in the Town Hall lobby.

New Business

End of Winter Event – New Paltz. Mark reported that the event would be titled “Spring for It -Anything but Plastic”. The focus will be on the harmful effects of plastic on the environment and our health. Mark introduced the concept of the TIFFIN as a substitute for plastic. He indicated that the event will be held on March 16th between 6 and 7:30 p.m. (virtually and eventually on You Tube). He asked for any help and support he can get.

Recurring Business

Solar Tax. Kim reported that the UCC is putting together a campaign to counter the solar tax that was recently enacted. UCC has not organized the initiative yet and she recommended, we chair it until the next meeting.

UCC. Kim reported that there is now an Arbor Day Grant available. She also asked for volunteers for the Ulster County Fair and remarked that the DEC is now involved.

Solar Mapping. Jason did not hear back from Carol Richman as to whether she felt that Gardiner should take an active role in the project.

NRI. Jason is working with the ECC in a joint effort to codify the NRI into Town law. Franco indicated that at present the issue will wait until the Comprehensive Plan is finished. Once done, the zoning codes will be changed (timetable for May) and the applications for development revised.

EV Charging Station. Jason reported that the Town Board approved a fee of \$1/hour after the first two hours. It was mentioned that you must have a Charge Point account to log in. Down the road, Jason would like to see a flat charge of 25 cents/kw.



Use of the CDC Grant: Jason asked Kim and Franco to check with the Town lawyers to learn if payment of a private business's audit using the grant was legal. If approved, Steve W. would send the 4th High Impact Item that will generate the award of the grant. Kim asked for volunteers to help her with the outreach to ten businesses and farms. Holly volunteered to assist.

Community Solar Array. The Committee met with Cara Lee who worked on a successful project. She briefed the Committee on things to consider and recommended a stakeholder meeting. Jason will reach out to the ECC, Parks and Recreation, Trails Alliance and Open Space. Tara and Franco suggested the Brian be invited as a member of the Fire Dept. and Highways.

Riverkeeper Sweep. Rebecca mentioned that the event will be held on May 7th. At the moment there is no lead person to manage the cleaning of the river, so the event may be limited to cleaning of the shorelines. The Hoot Owl will sponsor.



Trees for Tribs. Tara is working with the DEC and has obtained pre-approval for the planting of 350 trees. The official application still needs to be done. Tara said that the 5th grade at New Paltz might get involved as a field trip project. Tara also mentioned that a problem now exists in getting the town to do mowing for weed control around the trees already planted. Kim also mentioned that she is pursuing a tree commission as part of Arbor Day. She wants to pursue a town policy to protect the town's trees.



CCA – Jeff from Joule meet with the subcommittee. Jeff is very enthusiastic about community solar now that fossil fuels prices have climbed. Jeff also related that many towns throughout the state are looking for CCA alliances. Joule wishes to do an RFP in the May timeframe. Lastly, Community Solar opt out is currently on hold as NYSERDA and other state agencies still have to formulate a process.

LED Redesign. Kim reported that she had met with NYPA and that there are some 5 items left open. NYPA believes that these items should be taken care of by Central Hudson as they were negligent. Franco objected and said that he felt the NYPA was not following its agreement with the town and as such, should be pushed to comply. Franco felt that the sales team and the field team at NYPA are not talking with one another. Franco also said that we should seek compensation from Central Hudson.

Danskammer: Rebecca briefed that although the Danskammer application was disapproved, they are appealing. The reason for the denial was the expected increase in GHG gases. Danskammer is appealing the denial on the grounds that the DEC lacks authority to stop the plant. Rebecca urged all to attend the next virtual meeting on Feb 11th and to make written comments prior to Feb 22nd.

ICLEI and Community GHG Study – Mark is incorporating the Government Greenhouse Gas Study into the Community Study. He expects to have this finished by the end of the month. Mark has asked Steve M. for assistance in this area. Steve W. is working on adding information on gas usage for off road transportation.

Silver Certification. Steve W. will revisit the portal and revise the chart used for the Bronze certification. CSG has several initiatives underway that if completed, will push us closer to that goal. Jason and Steve W. both mentioned that there are existing projects that require revisions on a periodic basis in order to maintain the points in that area.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

Bio-Diversity. Rebecca and Franco attended a conference at the Jacob Javits center and now wants to work on an initiative in this area. She is looking at soil enrichment which would garner possible points in the portal. Kim would like her to incorporate the initiative into the Ulster County Fair event.

Pole Barn – Now that the CSG decided not to use any of the CSC grant for the refurbishment of the Barn, members are still concerned about what we could do to finish off the barn. Franco believes the Town could apply for a grant. He also feels that the Pole Barn’s renovation expenses could be offset by highlighting its potential as a revenue generator.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10. The next meeting will be held on March 2nd @ 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe and save energy!



Submitted by Stephen Weir