

Minutes of the July 1, 2020 Meeting - Held on Microsoft Teams

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

Task Force Members Excused. Suger Rowinski, Rebecca Carucci and Aimee Spring-Cecil
Guests in Attendance: Ben Eckstein and Dave Conover.

Opening: Jason opened the meeting. The prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Introductory Remarks: Jason introduced David and Ben who were from Hudson Valley Sustainable Green Group. They indicated they exist to leverage and collaborate to bring green power to businesses and households at reduced prices. They have been active with NYSERDA and the Catskill Ulster/Sullivan Mountainkeeper group, focusing primarily on heat pumps and building insulation. Currently, they have a Green Group Purchase Plan, who connects customers together with reliable energy contractors, primarily in the area of solar paneling, community solar, water heaters and heat pumps. They requested our assistance in advertising their program on our social media. Jason asked them to provide a flyer so that he could review it and then ask Kim to post it.

Recurring Business:

1. County CCA. Did not convene last month.
2. Natural Resources Inventory. The NRI Project group is expected to address the Open Space Commission on July 30 th ; the Town and Planning Boards on July 14 th .
3. Virtual Gardening. Franco said that there is a video clip on our FB page.
4. Climate Smart Interactive Webinar. Andrea Frank has contacted CSG about participating in an En-ROADS Climate Action Workshop. During the session, participants propose climate solutions such as energy efficiency, carbon pricing, fossil fuel taxes, reducing deforestation, or carbon dioxide removal. The facilitator then tests

these approaches in their En-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator, so participants can see the impact on global temperature, sea level rise, and other factors. The resulting experience is hopeful, scientifically-grounded, action-oriented, and eye-opening. CSG members have responded regarding interest and a final date will be worked out.

5. EV Charging Station. Holly presented the following:

☒ Ribbon Cutting. The ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. We anticipate that Marybeth Majestic, Tracey Bartels and State Senator Jen Metzger will attend. Jason and Kim will block off the area. The theme will be, “Freedom from Fossil Fuels”. HV1 has a conflict but will accept a write up and photos. Wallkill Valley Times is expected to attend.

☒ Sponsors. The Liquid Mercantile and Café Mio are covering the cost for six months each; the Range for 12.

☒ Advertising. Holly indicated that information is being put out on Plugshare and Chargepoint, as well as the local print media.

☒ Monitoring. Holly will also work with the DEC to ensure they have a link to the monitoring.

☒ Signage. Franco will see if he can find a source to make a permanent sign indicating that this is a CSG project.

☒ Operational Cost. Holly, David Dukler, Jason are splitting the non-demand costs. Jason has asked Marybeth if the funds should be deposited in a dedicated account and has not received an answer yet.

6. Gardiner CCA. The sub-committee met with Good Energy and the general feeling was positive. We were impressed by their willingness to accept Gardiner as its own client rather than waiting to merge us with a larger group. Still, we were concerned about their “brown mix”

approach and whether they would convince customers to pursue fossil fuels when the cost of such were lower than sustainable fuels. Steve is to get the Committee the requirements for points on the portal. Mark indicated that he had not received Good Energy's references. Mark is reaching out to MEGA, another supplier, for a possible meeting. Following this, Franco will make up slides stressing the pros and cons of each vendor for the Town Board to decide.

7. Climate Smart Communities Portal: Mark indicated that he had to deal with Kevin from the Gardiner Gazette about an article about the heat pump in Town Hall. Steve is still gathering information for posting on the portal regarding the NRI. He is also posting monthly fuel bills from the Highway Dept.

8. Riversweep. The annual cleaning of garbage from the Wallkill River is delayed until October. There was a discussion on the Wallkill Watershed Alliance and making an appointment to plant a tree at the watershed. Franco will send a blast out.

9. LED: No update.

10. Trees for Tribes. No update

11. Solar Array. No update.

12. Community GHG Study. Mark called Nat Roberts, a government consultant to the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Through them, we can obtain software to do the study correctly for \$600. Mark wanted to know if we were still registered for grants with the DEC.

13. Fossil Fuel Resolution. Holly wanted CSG to support a resolution opposing expansion of fossil fuel energy generating plants. She postulated that the Committee should proceed on its own since the Town Board generally opposes memorializing resolutions.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. The next meeting will be August 5th at the Town Hall @ 7 p.m. or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe!

Submitted by Stephen Weir