



Minutes of the March 3, 2021 Meeting Held on Microsoft Teams

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

Task Force Members Excused Holly Shader and Aimee Spring-Cecil

Guests in Attendance: Stephen Mazzuca.

Opening: Jason opened the meeting. The prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Jason covered the following news events:

New Paltz Climate Action Coalition Earth Day event on 4/24 – Mark Varian will attend and urged members and others to come out.

County Climate Smart meeting. Mark indicated that they discussed some early information on a potential peak plant pump station at the Ashokan Reservoir. The project would potentially generate 800 MW! This would be an enormous project.

Jason sent out an email announcing that the DEC has announced \$750K in grants are available and that interested parties need to apply by June 2nd.

Misha has resigned her membership.

New Business

Riverkeeper Sweep – Rebecca Carucci reported it will be occurring on Saturday, 5/1/21. Since Dave Sides will not be able to lead the water crew this year, there may be a very small crew that may perform a sweep through a small, specific section of the Wallkill river. Nevertheless, we expect to have approximately 50 volunteers. Rebecca

asked that everyone keep their eyes open for any potential sites in or around Gardiner for land crews. Rebecca will follow up with New Paltz team to see if they plan to be part of the sweep this year; if not, we may look at additional sites in New Paltz.

Rebecca expects to be able to share more details on site locations by early April and expects to have individual registration open at beginning of April.

Arbor Day tree Planting Event – Kim Mayer reported that this event is planned for 4/24 but may be postponed to 4/25 due to New Paltz CAC Earth Day event on 4/24. The task force members felt that it would not be an issue to hold these on the same day.

Kim indicated that she is working on a grant to the NY Urban Forestry Council to plant three mature trees in Majestic Park. She has discussed with Mike Albright (Gardiner Parks & Rec Committee Chair) regarding the type of trees and locations. Kim would like to hold an official ceremony and look to live stream the event. Part of the planning includes people watching to plant their own seedling/tree at the same time.

Kim also indicated that the tree nursery has offered to provide a discount on the cost.

Trees for Tribs. Tara has applied for a grant for the program and Marybeth Majestic, TOG Supervisor, approved its submission. We are tentatively planned for a 50-acre site at the Landfill Park. This has been coordinated with Mike of Parks and Rec. We are aiming for a May 1st event. The trees will be sourced from a nursery in Saratoga County and picked up at the DEC in New Paltz. Tara also indicated that we would have to clean up garbage that has been left from the hurricane.

Recurring Business

LED Audit. Kim briefed the Committee regarding the status of the project. Chief items of interest:

- Kim and Mark made a presentation of the current status to the Town Board on March 2nd. There is a link to the presentation on the FB page. They mentioned that they asked for the Town Board's support and briefed on the next steps needed.
- Kim discovered that a draft email to Central Hudson that the Town Supervisor was supposed to have sent was not. She expressed concern about the timelines associated with the project in that we need Central Hudson's costs in order to ask NYPA to give us a similar quote and these are only good for 90 days, during which we must evaluate the two approaches to redesign and ownership of the Town's lamps and win approval from the Town Board to proceed.



- Kim indicated that we are reviewing the Central Hudson bill and it is about ½ wrong.

Community Solar Array. A survey of the proposed areas for a solar array was done by Parks and Recreation. There are six areas that were identified. Rick indicated on a map that they are designated as Lots A through F. Four of the lots appear as potential areas and together they afford possibly 23 acres to work with. Two lots B and D are unusable. Lot B is on the 100-year flood plain and Lot D is totally wooded. Rick also mentioned that the top of the Transfer Station has an 80 x 40 roof that could be explored.



Jason continued to express concern about whether the project would conflict with the Town's Solar Law and Franco will follow up on this.

CCA. Franco reported that Joule conducted a Town public meeting on Feb. 20th @ 2 p.m. Another presentation is due on March 16th and April 3rd. Jeff from Joule is looking for supporters of CCA to provide quotes to be used to rebut criticisms of the project and Kim is working on a writing campaign. Franco said that Joule is working on a solar opt out program by potentially joining a bid in the June timeframe. Franco will present this to the Town Board on the 1st meeting in April and ask for a resolution to be approved. The consensus of the Committee is that Jeff should present current status to the Board.



Steve reported that the Library intends to use B and G's upcoming solar project to go Green.

Danskammer. Rebecca reported that the Danskammer application was approved. While this is disconcerting news, she pointed out that it will be some 12 to 18 months before a permit will be issued. The Coalition continues to oppose the project and there will be a Zoom meeting on March 12th @ 4:30 p.m. Details are listed on the CSG FB page.

Portal. Jason indicated that the points for the Code Enforcement Training appears to be dead as the DEC has changed the requirements and the training will not be offered until the Fall. Jason is hoping that we can resurrect the unified solar permit. Jason asked that Steve Mazzuca review the benchmarking high impact item and see if we can qualify for points in this area. Jason asked Rebecca to look at the social media and see if we can provide links from the Town website to our FB page.

Steve is using information being provided by Committee members to update the application. He is going over the requirements to make sure our inputs are more current and comply with changes to the PE items being introduced by DEC. Currently, he believes we have 120 points but the completion of the CCA project should clearly certify us for Bronze status.

GHG Inventory Update. Mark indicated that the 2019 update has been completed and that he and Steve will work on 2020 as the bookkeeping records become available. Steve indicated that the 2020 fleet inventory was completed but we need to update the diesel and gasoline prices from 2020 to finish it for presentation.

ICLEI. Mark reported that CSG will be joining a cohort training group in May. This will be going thru November and will require some 50 hours of participation. The presentations will occur every other week and will last one hour each.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m. The **next meeting** will be April 7th at the Town Hall @ 7 p.m. or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe and save energy!



Submitted by Stephen Weir