



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

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

Task Force Members Excused: Rick Irizarry, Holly Shader, Suger Rowinski and Rebecca Carucci.

Guests: Ikumi Sato and Ellen Ferranti.

Opening Remarks

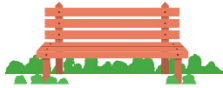
Jason opened the meeting. The minutes of the February 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Jason thanked Mark for taking them. Jason asked about the adoption of the Community Greenhouse Plan. Franco inquired whether the presentation at the October Board meeting would suffice, however, Mark said he believed that that the Town Board had to adopt. The Committee wholeheartedly thanked him for his dedication to the role.

New Paltz Earth Day Event. Jason indicated that CSG would be willing to assist. Mark briefed that the event will be held on March 22nd from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the theme is "The Ten Commitments". This is the 20th anniversary of Earth Day. Activities will include a tree identification walk and a bike ride sponsored by NPCSC. Gardiner's contributions will be providing "seed bombs" for pollinating and Holly will head this up. We are also planning a Recycling Quiz game to inform what items can and cannot be recycled at the Gardiner transfer station.

BAGS TO BENCH CHALLENGE

Recycle plastic bags, films and wraps into a bench for Gardiner Library!

Trex, the world's largest manufacturer of wood-alternative decking products will repurpose our plastic bags and films into a bench that will be donated to Gardiner Library.



What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Drop off your clean dry, food-free plastic products in the bins at the teachers' lounge and/or cafeteria until the end of the school year. Thank you!



Bags to Benches Challenge. TREK, the manufacturer of plastic recycled benches, is challenging the Town to collect 500 lbs. of plastic waste in return for building a bench to be donated to the Town Library. Collection points are the NP High School and the Gardiner Library. Posters and publicity are being sent out.

Green Schools. Mark briefed that NPCSC is establishing a committee made up of CSC members, school researchers and others. They need a connection to the School Board in order to propose a pilot program for a Green School.

Recurring Business

CCA. Franco reported that Joule had sent him the draft electrical supply agreement. He has asked for feedback from the Town Board and sent it to the Town attorney for review. The attorney has made some revisions and Joule is currently working on a revised ESA. Joule is expected to complete this by late March. Emily is updating the Town's website and posters extolling the program are anticipated to arrive shortly.

Disaster Preparedness Plan. Gillian Michaels held a meeting with Emily, Tara, Ikumi and Steve W. and issued two Google Forms to be completed by March 27th. It is hoped that the Town Emergency Plan will be re-written and that emergency services will be formalized in documents that may be published on the Town website. Ulster County is working on this on a county-wide basis. Steve W. asked that Brian Stisica be included in this group.



Ulster County CSC. No update as they did not have a meeting last month.

Cooling Centers. Ikumi briefed that she had sent emails to several libraries asking for any documents they may have regarding what they did to establish these centers. She said that most responded that they have been set up on a temporal basis and had nothing formalized. Tara mentioned that she and Ikumi had met with Nicole Lane at the Library who is seeking some template that might be used. Mark is reaching out to ICLEI and Steve W. will reach out to Eleanor Peck and will also research PE7 for requirements and guidance.

LED. Kim indicated that the Public Service Commission had received the necessary documents to purchase from Central Hudson. Kim needs to follow up with Chuck, the project manager, at NYPA to see when this all can be finalized.

Composting. Mark indicated that he had received information from the UCC.



Greenway was putting together some proposals to introduce themselves at the Ulster County Fairgrounds. UCC is also asking vendors how much food waste they are producing. Down the road, Greenway may be able to establish a program for Gardiner.

Riverkeeper. Franco briefed that it will be the first weekend in May (tentatively May 6th) and everything is ready. He said that the event will be publicized on the CSG FB page and on the Town website.

Arbor Day. Kim will be exploring the grants from the County. They have not been released yet. She mentioned that Parks and Recreation is looking at doing some planting at the River and Trails park to block the view from the transfer station.

Green Purchasing Procedure. Jason has an interest in this as there is a PE for the item and all that is required is to write a procedure that meets the requirements and have it adopted by the Town Board. The committee indicated that green procurements in the area of vehicles and HVAC equipment is tricky and that there would have to be provisions built in for RFP committee points for those proposals that meet certain green standards while still considering the budget for such procurements.

Danskammer: Franco reported that in the coming months, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) presiding over the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) permitting process will be issuing a decision on two important issues for the upcoming evidentiary hearings: which parties will be allowed to participate, and which issues will be litigated. Stop Danskammer Coalition members, Scenic Hudson, Sierra Club, and Orange-RAPP have requested to participate as full parties in the hearing.

Once the ALJ issues this decision, the DEC and the NYS Siting Board will set a schedule for joint evidentiary hearings. These hearings will lead to a final determination on the Article 10 siting certificate and Title V air permit Danskammer needs in order to build and operate its proposed fracked gas plant.

Group Purchasing Program. No updates.

Building Audits. No change from last month.

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

Closing Notes and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Feb 1st @ 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. or via a teleconferencing call. Stay safe, save energy and enjoy your environment!



Submitted by Stephen Weir