



Minutes of the May 5, 2021 Meeting Held on ZOOM

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

Task Force Members Excused: Holly Shader, Rick Irizarri and Aimee Spring-Cecil.

Guests in Attendance: Stephen Mazzuca.

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

- Ulster County Climate Smart Task Force has announced a Solarize campaign to promote Community Solar in the county.
- The proposed Pumped Storage Hydroelectric project at the Ashokan Reservoir has been withdrawn. Premium Energy Holdings, the firm from California that submitted the plan, says that other locations in the area will be considered and that the company will reach out to the affected communities prior to filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- Rebecca and Franco mentioned Riverkeeper's "Stop the Mud" campaign to stop New York City from dumping turbid reservoir water into Esopus Creek.
- Rebecca reviewed the Riverkeeper Sweep cleanup of the Wallkill on May 1. More than 60 people participated, covering 9 work sites. 7,360 lbs. of rubbish was collected. Tara and Chris filled their truck bed three times. Unique items, such as a potty seat and three picnic tables, were removed. A tire "graveyard" was

discovered below the landfill. We should focus on that next year.

- Kim reported on the Arbor Day festivities. The weather was beautiful. 75 people attended. There was poetry, humor and song plus remarks by Supervisor Majestic, Franco and Kim. Bloom Fine Gardening demonstrated the proper tree planting method with a Magnolia donated in memory of John Wackman. A report is being prepared to send into the grant committee along with great pictures taken by Steve Mazzuca. Kim hopes we'll be able to get some points for CSC certification. There are some issues concerning access to water for the trees. This should be remedied soon.
- Melinda Herzog and Brent Gotch from Cornell Cooperative Extension presented their completed Climate Change Resiliency Tool at the May 4 Town Board meeting. They included several recommendations for the Town to pursue to improve our climate resiliency. One recommendation is to include sustainability elements in the updated Comprehensive Plan (Climate Smart Action Element PE-6).
- Jason thanked Tara for putting together a Google drive on which we can post all CSG documents.
- Mark participated in a lobbying meeting on April 30 with Mike Tierney from Assemblyman Kevin Cahill's office to advocate for current legislation incentivizing the use of low-carbon concrete. Franco stated that the Parks and Rec Committee will request pricing for this material as an alternate for use on the replacement of the Majestic Park outdoor basketball court.
- Mark reported on "Earth Day Unbound," a celebration sponsored by New Paltz Climate Action Coalition and Interfaith Earth Action. The flags of all 174 members of the UN were displayed on Huguenot Street complete with a tag showing the carbon footprint of each nation. Inspirational signs were set up on the rail trail and several YouTube videos were created to provide tips on eliminating single use plastic and inexpensive passive solar, as well as prayer meditations and musical interludes. These videos will remain online for you to check out. Just google Earth Day Unbound!

Recurring Business

Trees for Tribs, May 8. Tara reported that 63 volunteers have signed up to help plant the 300 trees and shrubs the DEC is supplying at a field below the Gardiner Landfill.

The trees were delivered today and the 300' X 100' grid was laid out with the help of some volunteers. The planting holes, spaced 10' apart, will be pre-dug tomorrow and Friday with help from a mechanical auger. Volunteers will gather at 9:00 AM Saturday, rain or shine. Set-up will be at 8:30 when the DEC workers arrive.



Community Solar Array. Rick has produced a Request for Proposal for a community solar array at the Gardiner Landfill. He said the paperwork is 95% complete and all the documents and photos are on the CSG Google drive. Please review it and send your comments to Rick. Once it is complete, we will present it to the Town Board.

LED Audit. Kim, Mark & James Bragaglio are meeting tomorrow to go over Central Hudson's pricing, the utility's response to our streetlight audit. A revised proposal from New York Power Authority is expected tomorrow. Kim has written a draft letter to the town regarding the possible removal of five lighting fixtures. She is hoping to get community feedback. But this should not hold up our contract with NYPA if we decide to sign up.



CCA. Franco reported that Joule had gone out to bid for a new contract with an energy supplier for Hudson Valley Community Power, the current CCA that includes Marbletown and New Paltz. There were five responses. The new rate for eligible residential electricity accounts will be \$.0657 for three years. The supplier will be Columbia Utilities. While the existing CCA members will start the new contract in July, Gardiner and other new members, if we choose to join, will start in August or September. Franco also stated that he had received a response from the town's lawyer regarding the opt-out Community Solar subscription that Joule is offering members of the CCA. There were just a few concerns that Franco thought would not keep him from asking the board for a resolution to consider the Community Solar offer at the next board meeting on May 11. Jeff Domanski, from Hudson Valley Energy, will address opt-out Community Solar at the board meeting as well. He also plans to submit an article on the CCA to the *Gardiner Gazette*.



Unified Solar Permit. Franco stated that the town's lawyer has concerns about a resolution that would be required to adopt the Unified Solar Permit. Many changes to

Gardiner's current solar permit would have to be made, which would take some time. The changes may very well be necessary to keep up with the evolution of solar technology, so we should continue to work on this. We just won't be eligible for additional points for the CSG portal at this time.

Danskammer. Rebecca reported that the Stop the Danskammer Coalition is still asking folks to send comments to the Siting Board. Also, by supporting the passage of the Clean Futures Act (A6761A & S5939A) in this legislative session, you will be enabling the state to ban development of new gas power plants, including Danskammer. Information and phone numbers can be found on FB and at stoptheplant.org.

PE9: Education & Engagement with Cornell students. Tara filled out the Google form. No feedback yet.

Portal. Jason and Steve W think we have enough points to submit our application for Bronze Certification on July 2. We should include the Cornell Climate Vulnerability Assessment Tool, Trees for Tribs, Arbor Day, and the River Sweep. Jason said he will set up a time when he can meet with Steve and Mark to review the portal and make final adjustments before having it reviewed by someone at the Hudson Valley Regional Council.

GHG Inventory Update. Mark reported that he is working on the 2020 update. He will return to Town Hall a few more times to get all the invoicing information. Once Steve is back he can set up a time to review the fuel bills. Then there will be some work to be done on the CAPI spreadsheet before we can present to the Town Board (probably late summer or early fall).

ICLEI. Mark stated that the cohort training group meets for the first time in June. He and Steve W will attend. Classes will meet twice a month through December, when we should have substantially completed our Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM The **next meeting** will be June 2 via ZOOM @ 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Mark Varian