

# Climate Smart Gardiner Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

7:00 PM

Attendees: Franco Carucci, Rebecca Carucci, Jason Mayer, Kim Mayer, Tara Hoey, Mark Varian

## Minutes from last meeting

- No questions or issues.
- Minutes approved.

## Ulster County Climate Smart

- No significant updates.

## NYStretch Code and Unified Solar Permit

- Unified Solar Permit
  - Sent to attorney
  - If received back in time, expect to vote at the 4/13 TB meeting
- NYStretch Code
  - Margo gave detailed presentation
  - Requires passage of law
    - This will require public hearings
  - Agreed that next steps will require CEO/BI to review code and present questions and concerns.

## Cornell Coop Extension

- Climate Change education
- Tara and Jason reached out to Melinda Herzog
- Awaiting response on topics.

## Arbor Day

- 4/24 at 10am
- Flyer created
- Reviewed COVID protocols with department of tourism employee
- Will have event registration in order to ensure contact tracing
- Will require personnel at both entrances to park
- Social distanced activities
  - Story time / library walk
  - Tree ID scavenger hunt
- Ceremony (Marybeth or Franco to read and sign the proclamation)
- Tree Steward
  - Once a week to ensure water available for trees
- Tara indicated that we will need two additional tree tubes
  - Franco will check Lowes if available
- Originally had 3 trees, but added up to 5 as we got good deals on the trees.
- Tara indicated that the Chestnut Society donated two chestnut saplings.

## Riverkeeper Sweep

- 5/1 at 9am

- Rebecca and Tara looked at several locations --- LOTS OF GARBAGE!!!
- There are nine sites that require cleanup
- Small team will handle the Wallkill /Galeville area
- Other sites include:
  - Majestic Park
  - Tuthilltown
  - Ulster Fairgrounds
  - Trees for Tribes cleanup
  - Transfer Station (new trees for tribes location)
- Yard Owl offering free beer/beverage from 3:00 - 7:00

#### Trees For Tribes

- Approved for 300 trees and shrubs
- Planting at the transfer station property along the river
- Tara meeting with Marybeth tomorrow (4/8) to complete logistics planning
- Brian and Highway dept will be able to brush-hog the area in late April
- Tara and Marybeth will be discussing mowing plan to ensure maintenance of invasive species
- Laslo to donate time to use his drone photography
  - Team agreed to authorize Tara to sign non-disclosure form
- Need approximately 50 people
- Will require pre-digging
  - Likely on 5/5
- DEC will also be bringing the trees down to the side on 5/5
- Tara to share information on hole digging tools needed
  - Rebecca to ask on social media

#### CCA

- Joule presentation on 4/3
- Small group, tough crowd
- Asked lots of questions, starting at ground zero
  - Complaints about not knowing much about this program
- Suggestion was to use postal mail as best mechanism to inform the public.
- Mark suggested that we should ask Joule to be in attendance at the upcoming events, especially the Arbor Day event?
  - Mark to also suggest to them about attending TB meeting (perhaps on 5/4) to present CCA and be able to take any questions from the Board or public.
- Jeff from Joule to submit article to Gardiner Gazette!
- Community Solar opt-out resolution
  - Currently with the attorney and expect to vote on at next TB meeting

#### LED Streetlamps

- No updates to share at this time

#### Solar Array at landfill

- Solar Law exemption for Town of Gardiner

- Per attorneys, suggestion is to not approach project as having Town exempt from Solar Farm requirements
  - Instead, request variances via PB
- Jason to send email to Rick requesting next steps for RFP

#### Danskammer

- Public Hearings on 3/31
- Overwhelmingly positive
- Potential for another public hearing due to volume of speakers
- Expectation that decision to be made within the year
- STOPTHEPLANT.org
  - Sign up for the coalition
- WAMC - story on the hearing

#### Bronze Certification

- Application submission date is 7/2
- With some additional projects completing this year, expect to be at or above 130 points

#### CEC High Impact Actions

- LED
- Unified Solar Permit
- CCA
- Benchmarking
- This would open up the first \$5,000 grant

#### Climate Smart Website

- Rebecca has been working on getting site up to compliance
- Jason to ask Steve to review and ensure all components are ready
- Next steps:
  - Send change requests to Emily
  - Request Hudson Valley Regional Council to review

#### ICLEI

- Currently on hold
- The cohort for working on the GHG inventories has been pushed to May (finishing in December)
- Other members (Tara, Steve W, and Steve M) should go ahead and register

#### GHG Inventory

- Reaching out to Marybeth this week

#### Town of Gardiner Comprehensive Plan

- How to keep Climate Smart involved
- Franco to discuss with Marybeth about including CSG as part of his Comp Plan team

#### File Sharing/Storage

- Need to have access to file share location
- Google drive would be an easy, free function

- Only caveat is users require a Gmail account
- Tara to send request to all CSG members

#### Fundraising for CSG

- Tara asked if fundraising is possible
- Need to send funds to the New Paltz Community Foundation

#### New Paltz Earth Day festival

- Name changed to Earth Day Unbound
  - YouTube channel with groups presenting their projects/missions
- Flags will be raised as in years past

#### **Congratulations to Tara Hoey for her approval to join the Open Space Commission!!!**

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