



Minutes of the January 6, 2021 Meeting Held on Microsoft Teams

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

Task Force Members Excused Suger Rowinski, Holly Shader and Aimee Spring-Cecil

Guests in Attendance: Brent Gotsch and Melinda Herzog, Cornell Cooperative Extension

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

- The NRI met on Jan 6th at 4:30 pm on Zoom.
- We are registered on the CEC and have uploaded one item to date.
- New Paltz is holding a *Warm Up to Winter* virtual event on Jan 14th from 6:00 to 7:30. Jason has sent out literature on this.

New Business

Presentation by Cornell Cooperative.

- Use State funding (DEC) to build climate resiliency projects
- Work directly with municipalities to help them adapt
- Resiliency plan in 6 sessions which includes communication plans, vulnerability and risk assessments, public outreach, etc.
- Follow typical steps:
 - Initial meeting with Climate Smart Gardiner
 - Identify gaps and opportunities in local plans

- Develop specific recommendations
- Set meetings with building and codes inspector and highway supervisor as well as others that understand and can provide input regarding Gardiner's emergency preparedness plan, comprehensive plan and any other input that would help identify potential gaps or opportunities.
- Final presentation to the Town Board
- This action is worth 6 points toward CSG bronze certification.
- CSG reviewed example plan checklist
- Jason asked Brent if David Dukler and he had touched base.
 - Brent indicated that they had played phone tag right before the holidays, but they had not yet had any meaningful dialog
 - Jason will reach out to David
- Mark gave input on his experience with this process for New Paltz. He stated that it is worthwhile process that benefits the Town.
- Question asked about the timeline for the process.
 - Melinda and Brent stated it depends on how quickly they can meet with municipal resources to gather the necessary information, but otherwise should only take a month or so.

Budget Letter to End Fossil Fuel Subsidies in NYS. The Taskforce decided to support a petition to Governor Cuomo and NYS Administrative leadership to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies in NYS.

Recurring Business

EV Station Signage. EV Charger signs have been installed.

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

- There are at least 12 bulbs that are inoperative that Central Hudson is charging us for. Franco said we can approach them on replacing them.
- Central Hudson is replacing inoperative bulbs with LED that are of higher wattage that is needed. Kim asked Franco to request Marybeth write Central Hudson to request they not replace bulbs without contacting Kim. Kim also wants to be made the TOG's central point of contact and get a copy of the latest bill.
- We now have a total of 23 LED lampposts.
- Kim is working with James about dark skies specifications.
- Some residents want lamps to be removed but this cannot happen until there is a period for community feedback.
- The consensus is that we should make a presentation to the Town Board in February as to our status.

Kim wondered about the prospect of the Town owning the fixtures rather than Central Hudson since the latter charges annual maintenance fees on the poles. Mark noted that that Central Hudson will only provide a quote that is good for 2 months. Kim will follow up.

Solar Array at the Landfill. Rick and Mark have spoken to NYSERDA. They have a team that can expedite the approval process for towns. Problem there is that they now have three new people on the project, and we are not on their "radar" because of the small size of our project. Nevertheless, Rick mentioned that NYSERDA has a fill in the blank template for an RFP that

could be done within a week. Rick is due to meet with B and G Energy on Jan 8th. They are very interested in the lots that are surrounding the proposed area and who owns them. Jason is very concerned still about getting a "read out" from the Town Attorney regarding whether a Town



solar array would conflict with Local Law 2-2017 which constricts the size of arrays that can be constructed within the Town. Rick speculated that there is precedent in other Towns that suggest it would not be problematic. Misha also indicated that we should consider using the area above the bins at the Transfer Station as that area gets direct sunlight.

CCA. Franco noted that the Town Board has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Joule. Franco is now reaching out to Jeff of Joule and arranging dates to plan the outreach phase. Jason asked that Committee members contact Franco regarding groups that should be contacted.



ICLEI. CSG's membership will start in January. Franco is working on payment of the invoice and Mark will spreadhead the project.

Danskammer Coalition. Misha reported that the Business Letter had been developed. This allows local businesses to document to Gov. Cuomo their opposition to Danskammer. See

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaMNsgQVkvSIxVnUL0_CWeHDHmMeW50cIyaQ5wEho9HmdUAQ/viewform. Rebecca indicated that several companies have signed. Misha reported that there is a documentary to be shown on Jan 19th at 6 p.m.

and that Stop the Plant was looking for CSG to sponsor. Jason asked for a vote and all agreed.

Outreach Efforts to Other Communities. Kim indicated that Rochester had taken the CSC pledge and that Lloyd might. Kim mentioned that we need contacts in the Town of Plattekill to spur them on. Mark also mentioned that he had discussed the methodology for doing the Government GHG study with John Bradley from Claverack.

Climate Smart Communities Portal: Steve continues to post monthly fuel usage by vehicle as reported by the Highway Dept. and recently got their annual report of mileage and inventory. Currently, CSG has around 103 points completed, and we could pick up 7 points for LED, 18 for CCA and 10 for adopting the NRI inventory as a local law. Steve uploaded Jason's annual report and also uploaded one high impact item to the CSC site. **Update:** We cannot get points for the EV charging station until the DEC form is completed and uploaded. Jason mentioned that we should be able to score 2 points for the riparian borders, however, Steve indicated that the Trees for Trib site had to be at least 10,000 sq. ft. He also needs the invoice for the ICLEI subscription, which Franco will pursue.

Jason inquired about the Government GHG inventory not being updated but Steve indicated that it only has to be updated every five years. Still, Mark and Steve will update it during January and February.

Ethics. Several potential conflicts of interest exist with CSG member and their associations with private companies in the energy field. Jason asked everyone to review the ethic codes on the town's website.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m. The **next meeting** will be Jan. 6th at the Town Hall @ 7 p.m. or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe and save energy!



Submitted by Stephen Weir