



## **Minutes of the June 2, 2021 Meeting Held on Microsoft Teams**

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

**Task Force Members Excused** Rebecca Carucci and Aimee Spring-Cecil

**Guests in Attendance:** David Church and Ellen Ferranti.

**Special Presentation:** Jason opened the meeting and introduced David Church, who is working on the re-writing of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. David is by trade a geologist and has extensive government experience with Orange County.

David said that the Plan had two primary objectives: first, to regulate land use and second, that capital projects be reviewed with this Plan in mind. David mentioned that the TOG is developing its website and wants to have a draft of the Plan by early fall and adopted by EOY.

In response to a questionnaire that David had sent the Committee, we responded that Gardiner has changed in the following ways since 2004:

- The Town is very receptive to Climate Smart Gardiner and many of our initiatives are being considered and adopted.
- The housing boom is making it more difficult for low-income and seniors to live here. Very little commercial development is occurring to meet the needs of residents.
- The number of working farms in the area has declined.

Our responses to the best features of Gardiner and the worse were:

- Best: The view of the Ridge and the recreational areas that are nearby.
- Worse: The air pollution from Jellystone Campground. This will be exacerbated with the addition of the approved Glam camping area.

In response to the highest priorities to be included in the new Plan, several Committee members offered:

- The adoption of the NRI by the Town Board as a local law that would require the Planning Board to consider the NRI as a part of any approval of development plans.
- Pushing for Dark Skies technology in the Town's lighting infrastructure.
- Adoption of a Water Law, limiting the dumping of pollution in our sewage system and ultimately into the Walkill River. Franco pointed out that the samples taken from the river show toxic levels that are 12 times higher than the limit and that the Town is currently spending \$100K to improve the system.
- The hiring of a full-time grant writer who can identify grants that will improve the Town and further CSG's goals. There are several grants now available that are not researched and others that are beyond the capabilities of volunteer committees to generate.

On the question of what research is needed, CSG commented that a Vulnerability Study is needed as suggested by the Climate Resiliency Study recently presented to the Town of Gardiner Board.

Regarding the question of Gardiner being the highest cost burdened community, the Committee mentioned these concerns:

- Planning for smart commercial growth of the four hamlets so that residents could walk to obtain some services. Now, residents have to travel to adjoining communities for nearly everything. Improving this would greatly reduce community GHG production and lower the cost of using and maintaining a fleet of vehicles in each household.
- Seeking alternate forms of transportation.

**Opening:** Jason opened the meeting. The prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

## **Old Business**

**Trees for Tribs** – Tara will follow up with the DEC regarding the size of the planting that was recently done. She mentioned that the heavy rain was great for growth. Tara also noted that she intends to ask the DEC for 600 trees for next year's planting.

**CSC Grants** – There is currently a grant from the CSC that may be used to create a cooling center inside the barn at Majestic Park. Tara is working with some grant officials. Franco is to reach out to Supervisor Majestic. Research is still needed to determine how the grant should be used: insulation, heat pump, A/C, etc.

**Climate Reality Project** – Franco mentioned that he attended the meeting and that it consisted of stats, references and options/impacts of each. The presenters also recommended follow up actions, such as writing to your State Senator. Kim mentioned there is still a need to reach out to other neighboring communities to get them to take the pledge.

**New Member** – Jason noted that Steve Mazzuca wants to join our group. Franco noted that he had worked with Steve and found him to be smart and well connected. CSG voted unanimously to accept Steve as a new member. Steve W. will modify the CSG membership letter.

**CCA** – Jeff Domanski from Joule made a presentation to the Board and wrote an article in the Gardiner Gazette. Jeff sent an email to the Committee noting that the Town



Board had to approve the rate on the supply agreement. Franco noted that the Town attorney raised some questions regarding the ability of low-income families and their ability to use the CCA. There were also comments regarding the right to opt out of a green supplier. Franco did not believe any of this would pose a problem. He noted that the text of the CCA is posted on the Town website and that adoption of the CCA would complete another CSC high impact item.

**LED Redesign.** Kim indicated that she had written to Franco about arranging a presentation to the Town Board in July. She noted that NYPA had made a proposal on the decorative lights that she found pricey; she is seeking alternatives. On the Cobraheads, she noted that we cannot install them because they need maintenance.



**Community Solar Array.** Rick has to make a presentation to the Board on the options available to the Town.

**Education and Engagement with Cornell Students** – Jason indicated that he would distribute their work to all CSG members.

**Portal** – Kat Carrol from the Hudson Valley Regional Council is reviewing our possible Bronze certification submission. Jason noted that we have to ascertain in writing the square footage of the Trees for Tribs planting. Tara will provide. Next, Steve W. needs to follow up to ensure that the updated fleet inventory is posted on the Town website. We also need attendance sheets for the Repair Café and a picture of the heat pump in Town Hall.

**ICLEI.** Mark reported that CSG will be joining a cohort training group in June. 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 8:20p.m. The **next meeting** will be July 7 at the Town Hall @ 7 p.m. or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe and save energy!



Submitted by Stephen Weir