



Minutes of the June 1, 2022, Meeting Held on Zoom

Task Force Members Present: Jason Mayer, Mark Varian, Franco Carucci, Rebecca Carucci, Kim Mayer, Holly Shader

Task Force Members Excused: Rick Irizarry, Tara Hoey, Steve Mazzuca, Stephen Weir

Opening Remarks

Jason opened the meeting. The minutes of the May 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Recurring Business

UCC. Kim reported that the Ulster County Fair Committee is focusing on sustainability for the summer event (August 2 thru August 7). She also stated that Cornell Cooperative Extension has developed a program using CAD (Computer Assisted Design) to tackle environmental issues. They are currently working with the City of Kingston.

Riverkeeper Sweep. Rebecca stated that the May 7 Riverkeeper Sweep throughout the Hudson Valley managed to collect 18 tons of rubbish, including 134 tires (28 from Gardiner), despite threatening weather. Many groups from other communities were rained out.



Arbor Day – Five trees were planted adjacent to Town Hall on May 21. The trees, worth about \$1,000, were paid for by a grant from Ulster County. Bloom Fine Gardening and the Gardiner Highway Department provided assistance. The Tree Huggers and Steve

Mazucca performed. The Town Supervisor, Marybeth Majestic, read an Arbor Day proclamation, students presented their poetry and told jokes. Kim announced that members of the community are putting together a "Tree Task Force," which is the first step toward Gardiner becoming a Tree City.

Trees for Tribs. Turnout for the tree-planting event on May 21st was strong – 60 to 70



people including school groups. 370 trees and shrubs were planted. The Highway Department mowed the field prior to the planting. A team from the DEC delivered the trees and planting materials and organized the planting process. Chris Hoey pre-dug the planting holes, Tara Hoey monitored the check-in and the school groups. Mark pointed out that the members of the Climate Smart Gardiner task force have developed a large support network for their events which is a great achievement. Holly suggested we produce a publicity checklist and contact sheet for future projects and events.

Interns. We're still looking into having interns work with us on our projects and events.

Grants. Tara has been in touch with Kat Carrol from the Hudson Valley Regional Council regarding grants to help with completion of the interior of the pole barn for use as an emergency cooling center. Grant applications for food waste programs are due by the end of July.

CEC Grant. Jason stated that the costs for the EV charging station are escalating. The task force agreed that we should recommend that the town not pay for insurance and that the additional money from the CEC grant should be used as a cushion to pay for potential maintenance going forward. As of today the the charging station is no longer free. It is now 35 cents for one kWh.

Farm Audits. Kim stated that since energy audits for farms are free, we should focus on signing up farmers. Farms do not have to be in Gardiner. For every 5 farms we get to sign up, the town will be eligible for a free energy audit for one municipal building.

CCA. Franco expressed concern that Columbia Utilities, the energy supplier for Hudson Valley Community Power, the local CCA, is trying abandon their contract to supply 100% renewable energy to the Community Choice Aggregation at a set price. Until this issue is settled, no new communities will feel comfortable joining a CCA. Kim suggested that we invite Susan Gillespie to a future meeting to discuss the CCA proposal under consideration by Kingston and Rosendale.

LEDs. Kim reported that she has responded to several questions that Philip from NYPA had sent regarding the estimate he is preparing for the LED project for Gardiner.

Silver Certification. Jason suggested that the completion of the town's comprehensive plan should provide 20 points toward further CSC certification. Installation of a solar array at the landfill will also earn many points. Franco stated that it will be some time before we know how the park designation at the landfill and surrounding woods will impact the solar development. It looks at this point that if a solar farm can be installed, it will probably only generate about 2 megawatts of electricity.

Danskammer: Rebecca reported that the Stop Danskammer Coalition is currently restructuring. Since Danskammer litigation will continue for perhaps a couple of more years the group is choosing new projects to advocate for including battery storage. Getting support from the unions is also a goal.

ICLEI and Community GHG Study – Mark stated that the data gathering is complete, and forecasting is in process. We will be working on planning soon. We have started putting together a report. The 2019 Government GHG inventory will be included in this report. With the Town Board very busy with so many issues and possibly going onto a summer meeting schedule, Mark feels the report will get onto the Board's agenda in early fall.

New Business

Vulnerability Assessment. Steve Mazzuca attended a program sponsored by the Ulster County Environmental Department introducing a project under development by Bard graduate students. The students are putting together a template for a series of workshops that can be used by volunteers to present to their communities, enabling residents to identify those assets within the town that are vulnerable to climate change. For Gardiner this could be the impact of flooding on our growing tourist economy. The template package will be coming out during the summer. At that time we'll determine if we want to participate in this training program.

Funding Ideas: Parks and Recreation is working on pole barn upgrades - sheetrocking, kitchen equipment, bathrooms. Perhaps we could add sustainable elements – insulation, electric heating and cooling.

The town could possibly hire a free-lance grant writer to look into additional funding. We could reach out to other non-profits to learn how they compete for grants.

We discussed looking into moving the highway department's woodchips to farms to mitigate erosion.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

Water Station – Franco announced that a water fountain and bottle filler, which will be winterized, will be installed in the shed at Majestic Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50. The next meeting will be held on July 6th @ 7 p.m. at the Town Hall or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe and save energy!



Submitted by Mark Varian