



Minutes of the November 4, 2020 Meeting Held on Microsoft Teams

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

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

Guests in Attendance: Vernon Benjamin and Kale Roberts.

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

- Andrea Frank re-conducted her Climate Interactive Seminar on October 19th @ 7 pm in the Gardiner Library. Nine people attended.
- The NRI will meet on November 18th at 4:30 pm on Zoom.

New Business



Community Solar. Jason introduced Vernon Benjamin, who works for the Highway Dept. at the Town of Saugerties. Vernon is also an author who has written on several environmental issues. https://www.dailyfreeman.com/news/saugerties-resident-vernon-benjamin-continues-chronicles-of-hudson-river-valley-with-follow-up-book/article_9c39f51b-af6b-5cc1-a758-4a9d9a9b4381.html. Vernon covered the process by which Saugerties obtained a 2MW solar array. The arrangement is through a land lease contract which also requires the vendor to pay a portion of their charges to

the town above the lease amount. The vendor used was East Light Partners. Mr. Benjamin believes that East Light would be interested in Gardiner and he indicated that he would forward a copy of the contract to CSG.

ICLEI Presentation. Mark Varian introduced Kale Roberts. Mark indicated that New Paltz had worked with ICLEI on preparing their Climate Vulnerability Assessment Community and worked with Philipstown on their Community GHG study. Kale presented a PowerPoint presentation, noting that ICLEI has been an organization for over 30 years. They started by studying and addressing ozone holes and now concentrate on carbon sinks and emissions. Kale indicated that the Hudson Valley makes up 80% of ICLEI business in the New England area. He noted that 20 governments are now using ICLEI's ClearPath tool to inventory, forecast, plan and report on GHG emissions. Franco indicated that he had obtained Town approval to spend \$600 for a Town membership and we will pursue this. Kale's email is kale.roberts@iclei.gov.

Resiliency Tool. Jason is working with Melinda Herzog from Cornell Cooperative Extension. He has coordinated with Supervisor Majestic who is enthused about participating but wants to obtain Town Board's approval. Steve indicated that Supervisor Majestic had also contacted him because he is working on the Town's Emergency Management re-write and this tool would be instrumental in helping to plan.

Recurring Business

Riverkeeper Sweep. The Sweep was held on for October 17th. Jason congratulated Tara and Rebecca. The event received significant press coverage and pictures were uploaded to the DEC portal. See <https://www.recordonline.com/story/news/2020/10/19/river-sweep-cleanup-targets-sites-along-wallkill-river-gardiner/3658361001/>



Gardiner CCA. Franco reported that the next step is to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Joule. Franco said that the Town attorney was supposed to have the approved copy to him today and that he wants to get it on November's Town Board. After this, Joule will begin the outreach effort, which Franco said could be a problem with Covid.



EV Charging Station. Franco displayed the signs that his vendor did. They are very professional looking and will be installed as soon as Franco can coordinate with the Highway Dept.

UC CSG and Outreach. Kim related that the UC CSG is working on several projects on a county-wide basis and would report on any progress.

Updating Government GHG Inventory. No update on this yet.

Danskammer Coalition. There was nothing new to report here. The ball is still with Danskammer to prove to State officials their projections on the impact on GHG emissions.

Climate Smart Communities Portal: Steve posted the new appointment letter to the portal and continues to post monthly fuel bills from the Highway Dept.

LED. Kim and Mark continue to work on this project. They met with James Brigagliano. Mark reported that an audit done in Marbletown resulted in the Town being refunded \$5K from Central Hudson. Kim wants to replace the lampposts that the Town owns with LED bulbs. We are already close to Dark Skies compliant.

Trees for Tribes and Go Green Expo: All these programs are on hold pending the end of the Covid virus.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. The **next meeting** will be December 2nd at the Town Hall @ 7 p.m. or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe!

