



## **Minutes of the October 21, 2022, Meeting Held at BaseCamp**

**Task Force Members Present:** Jason Mayer, Kim Mayer, Mark Varian, Tara Hoey, Steve Mazzuca, and Rick Irizarry

**Task Force Members Excused:** Suger Rowinski, Franco Carucci, Rebecca Carucci, Holly Shader and Stephen Weir

**Guests:** Janet Irizarry, Teresa Mazzella, Amir Halfon, Tom Penichter

### **Opening Remarks**

Jason opened the meeting. The minutes of the September 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Jason announced that the town has won a \$5,000 grant for having completed the Clean Energy Communities requirements. The town will receive \$1,200 to cover expenses related to the EV charging station. The balance will be used for EV charger maintenance.

Repair Café was held on September 25. A review of the day appears at the end of the minutes.

### **New Business**

**Agrivoltaics Presentation:** On September 29 Scenic Hudson presented a webinar entitled *Agrivoltaics: Maximizing Land Use with Solar & Agriculture*. Steve Mazzuca and Holly attended. Steve's notes on the program appear at the end of the minutes.

### **Recurring Business**

**Community Preservation Fund:** A local law to fund the Town of Gardiner Community Preservation Plan, which was adopted earlier this year, will be on the back of the ballot on Nov. 8. Tara reported that the publicity for this local law has been

going well. Lawn signs have been distributed; community outreach sessions have been held. Another session will be presented on Monday, Oct. 24, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall and over Zoom. The focus of this presentation will be the impact of the CPF on preservation of agricultural land.

**Community GHG Inventory:** Mark, Steve Weir, and Steve Mazzuca presented the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory to the Town Board on Oct. 11. The Board seemed to be very receptive. Board members had received the formal draft report prior to the meeting. There were few questions. Steve Mazzuca handled the technical elements of the PowerPoint presentation and Steve Weir reported remotely on transportation emissions. The report and presentations will be posted on the town's website. Questions and comments should be sent to the Climate Smart Gardiner Task Force. A final draft will be submitted for adoption by the Town Board by the end of 2022.

**Gardiner Day:** Mark and Steve Weir manned the Climate Smart table at Gardiner Day festivities on Oct. 1. Mark reported that the turnout was good in spite of threatening weather. The CSC table was next to the Gardiner Library table, which not only offered a "take-apart" table where Holly offered kids the opportunity to disassemble non-working tools and small appliances, but also allowed the kids to mix up some slime to pour over themselves to create the perfect Halloween ghoul. Folks did stop by the CSG table to discuss climate issues and manipulate the greenhouse gas blocks and molecule candy.

**Hudson Valley Community Action Network:** Jason mentioned that we joined the network to keep informed about the latest environmental issues facing the Hudson Valley.

**Bethel Woods:** CSG signed on to a letter written by Liz Elkin to the Bethel Woods Board of Directors expressing concern about the entertainment venue's prohibition of reusable water bottles and their use of single use plastics. Mark stated that Liz had received a positive response to her outreach to members of the board. More to come.

**LEDs.** Mark and Kim spoke with Franco regarding the status of the LED streetlight project. If the town decides to work with the New York Power Authority, she thinks that the town should only consider hiring NYPA to change out the cobra-head lamps and leave the town's decorative fixtures as they are. Central Hudson has not followed up on Gardiner's request to purchase the cobra-head streetlights. Many of the old cobra-head lamps have already been replaced with LEDs. Therefore, purchasing the streetlights, installing all new LEDs and sensor nodes, and establishing a NYPA maintenance program is more of a financial decision than a climate-smart choice. Kim said that Supervisor Bettez of New Paltz is pleased with the work NYPA has done with New Paltz's streetlights. However, Kim also mentioned that someone in Gardiner would have to take the training course provided by NYPA and be available to monitor the streetlights since the lights would be owned by the town.

**IRA:** We discussed possible funding for environmental projects through the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act. Rebate and incentive information can be found on <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/ira-fact-sheets>. (A Climate Solutions meetup featuring IRA funding information will be held live at Rycor's education center, 135 North Chestnut Street, New Paltz, on Nov. 1 at 6:00 pm. All are invited)

**EV Charging Station:** Steve Mazzuca said that the charging station is using about 730 kWh per month. He said we should consider charging a parking fee (perhaps \$1.00 per hour) after charging has been completed. Tara suggested that there should be a grace period of a half hour before the parking fee would be applied.

**Interns:** Tara has been in contact with SUNY New Paltz about their intern program. The school requires that interns be given 18 hours of work a week to obtain 6 credit hours. We discussed whether there would be enough work for an intern. Steve Weir needs people to work on the town's emergency management system. Steve Mazzuca and Jason expressed concern about making sure a task force member had the time to train and supervise an intern. Tara said intern interviews are being held within the next two weeks.

**CCA.** Mark stated that he had heard reports of billing issues for those participants in the Hudson Valley Community Power CCA after the energy provider reneged and they were returned to Central Hudson's standard energy mix. At a recent webinar, Joule representatives stated that they were looking into new suppliers and hoped to go out to bid soon. Westchester's CCA went back on line with 100% renewable energy this month for about 15 cents per kWh.

### **Closing Notes and Adjournment**

**Green Fleet Procurement:** Jason sent out Ulster County's Green Fleet Procurement Law. He hopes that Tracy Bartels will be able to address the Task Force at next month's meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Stay safe and save energy!



Submitted by Mark Varian

## **Holly's Report on Repair Cafe**

9/25/2022 Gardiner Library

Sunday was a great day at the Gardiner Library Repair Cafe. Thanks to Don Grice, the room was set up and the 2 guests (who arrived 20 minutes early had someone to greet them and talk with as the coaches arrived and got ready to work on the day's projects. As usual, the day started off with gusto and I was continuously reminded of something John always said about why we do it, "To feed our curiosity about the way things work, be creative, and have fun! And what fun we had. At one point 2 woodworkers and the resident photo restoration expert were working together to fix a hand massager successfully(!) and then demonstrated its use on each other. Many of the fixes were collaborative efforts of multiple coaches. A few guests were so taken with the positivity and friendliness in the room that they want to become coaches as well.

The coaches on hand were: Don Grice, Patrick Murphy, Naomi Aubain, Suzy Fromer, Ken Fix-it, David Nightingale, Dan and Diane Casey, Holly Shader and Michel Henry.

The items worked on included:

A very slow computer - better now

Clock - fixed

Clock - needs a part (guest will purchase and bring to next RC)

Lamps - 8 (variety of fixes)

Coffee maker (needs a part, will order and visit the next RC)

Kitchen Aid mixer (work around found)

Watch - clasp fixed

Watch - 2 - needs battery (back opened, size determined, guest will buy and replace)

Watch - battery replaced

Chandelier - beyond repair, but pieces are being salvaged

Earring - needed new post

Massager - fiddled with it until they found the wire that needed to be connected

VCR/DVD player/recorder - VCR cleaned, but DVD still doesn't work (Dan will bring parts to next RC)

Tote bag - handle reattached

Sneaker - sole needed to be reglued

Record player - fixed by woodworker & tinkerer

Bullhorn - diagnosed, will fix at next RC

Scale - diagnosed, work around discovered

Eighteen guests with 26 items. Virtually everything has been saved from going to landfills and I think everyone had a good time. Who can ask for more?

Comments from the day:

- I love this service so much! Such a wonderful offering - Thank you!
- Wonderful service to the community! And great people working.

- Thank you so much for the effort. It was much appreciated!
- Thank you for the teamwork & hack fixing the lamp!
- I appreciated the advice on how to use the remote(?) for DVD and Dan was very informative.
- Received good advice from Holly and others. People are so nice and friendly here and willing to help you with your repair needs.

Thank you for all that you do. Let's keep having fun!

---

## **Steve Mazzuca's Notes on Agrivoltaics**

Agrivoltaics: Maximizing Land Use with Solar & Agriculture

Orange County Planning Department

Hayley Carlock, Esq.

Orangetown.gov

Credits and recordings to be posted on their website

Presentation 1

Hayley Carlock – Scenic Hudson Inc. Director of Environmental Advocacy and Legal Affairs

Scenic Hudson – Storm King Mountain – saved.

Organization is focusing on climate change.

What is driving Solar Development in NY?

- State Policy
  - 70% of energy renewable by 2030
  - 100% of emissions Carbon Free by 2040
- NYSERDA looking for large scale solar 25MW or greater.
- Hochul wants 2000 MW more of solar.
- NY Sun Program – incentivizes smaller projects
- Biden – 100% Carbon Free by 2035
- 2022 Inflation Reduction Act: large investment in renewable energy

How does Solar and Farming intersect.

- Similar areas needed – in competition for types of land.
  - Concern by farmers of loss of land.

- NY has been losing farmland for a long time.
- There are opportunities to combine farming and solar on the same property.
- Solar is in different place from agriculture – supplements farm income.
- Benefits to farmer – additional income, income diversity
- Solar panels can protect certain plans from the sun.
- Increased public support for solar.
- A “How To Solar Now Kit” has been developed – a suite of tools to help.
- GIS Solar Mapping Tool

Resource for accessing dual use solar research and case studies from around the country: <https://www.agrisolarclearinghouse.org/>

all presentations and recordings will be available at [OrangeCountyGov.com/Sustainability](http://OrangeCountyGov.com/Sustainability)

Ethan Winter – Farms Under Threat – Solar in Context – NY & Orange County

Local Policy Action – Smart Solar Principles.

Agrivoltaics – Maximizing Land Use with Solar and Agriculture

They did an inventory of the most productive, versatile and resilient farmland. (PVR Index)

2001-2016 11 million acres of farmland converted to urban/high density & low density residential development. (NY lost 250K acres)

NYS – under threat with loss for Farmland with Lower Hudson Valley at the most risk.

Looking at how to mitigate impact with Farmers.

- Protect land permanently, graze around panels, crops under panels, livestock around panels, navigate between panels.

Lots of local farmland is at risk!

<https://farmland.org/project/farms-under-threat/>

<https://farmlandinfo.org/publications/farms-under-threat-2040/>

Presentation 3:

Lightstar Agrivoltaics Team

Ian Ward

Agrivoltaics – growing crops under solar panels

- Bifacial panels – allow some light to penetrate
- Tracking sun ability
- Priority – Land, Farmer, Community , Solar

Tammy Cohen: Light Star

If the state doesn't provide incentives, it is also possible to utilize tax assessment changes for farmers.

Judy, Great question. NYSERDA and the Agricultural-Technical Working Group have worked over the past year to strengthen the Smart Solar Siting Scorecard for large scale projects. This will award additional points to projects that commit to dual use applications, soil health measures, and farmer engagement on project design. For more details:

<https://portal.nyserda.ny.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=00P8z000001lhRPEAY>

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/all-programs/clean-energy-standard/renewable-generators-and-developers/res-tier-one-eligibility/solicitations-for-long-term-contracts>

Presentation 4:

Local Project – Case Study – Plains Road, Montgomery NY – 55 Plains Road

New research on PV Stormwater Management and best practices for site specific soil health: <https://www.nrel.gov/solar/market-research-analysis/pv-smart.html>