



Minutes of the July 6, 2022, Meeting Held on Zoom at 7 p.m.

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

Task Force Members Excused: Steve Mazzuca, Rebecca Carucci and Holly Shader

Opening Remarks

Jason opened the meeting. The minutes of the June 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Jason thanked Mark for taking them in Steve W.'s absence.

Repair Cafe. Jason mentioned that it was held on June 26th. There were nine coaches present who serviced twenty-seven guests and kept forty items from the landfill.

Recurring Business

UCC. Kim reported that the UCC still needs more volunteers for the booth at the August 2nd to August 7th Ulster County Fair. There is a need for six people per day.

LED. Kim reported that NYPA has still not responded, and she has to follow up.

EV Charging Station. Jason received a bill with taxes included. Town Supervisor Marybeth Majestic is providing the Town's tax exemption letter. Jason raised the possibility of reaching out to the Gardiner Area Business Association (GAB) to obtain sponsors to keep the hourly charge rate down so that the station would continue to be used and attract business into the hamlet.

Initiatives to Reach Silver Certification. Jason remarked that Steve W. had indicated a number of low hanging fruit items that could readily get CSG points towards our next goal. He wanted to know the response. Steve W. responded that only the

issue of the Cooling Center had any interest to date. Tara is pursuing getting an intern to work on the issue. Steve W. indicated that the center(s) should have a stock of liquids for rehydration and that these centers should be a part of the Town's Emergency Plan. Steve indicated that he and Maria Rice had written the COVID plan that the Town adopted and that they had a baseline document to address all emergencies. They had asked for Marybeth to form a committee of Town employees that would be instrumental in implementing the Town's response, however, it never got traction. Franco offered to speak to Marybeth about this.

Note: Steve W. is also determining whether the Town's newly adopted Comprehensive Plan will be eligible for points. There are five required elements to have the plan considered at all and then there are seven-point elements, worth three points each. At the moment, Steve is extracting the chapter and pages number that address each element.

CEC Grant. Jason advised that the format for applying for the grant money (\$5K) is simple and that he and Holly would work on it. He needs to get the May and June Central Hudson bills for the charging station.

Bldg. Audits – Tabled.

CCA – Mark sees trouble ahead. He discovered that Westchester Power has temporarily suspended their attempts to purchase renewable energy for their CCA customers due to the volatility of the energy market.

Westchester considers this a temporary move. New Paltz Climate Smart spoke to Joule which has sued its energy supplier for breach of contract. A temporary restraining order is currently in effect so there has been no change in Jason recommended that we have Susan Gillespie speak to CSG at our next meeting.



Trees for Tribs. Jason indicated that he had pursued additional point credit for



planting of additional trees every year, but the CSC said that once the maximum points were reached, that is it. Mark spoke about the importance of continuing the program indicated that the Community Greenhouse Inventory is showing that due to the forests and the other trees, Gardiner is a GHG reservoir. Mark also indicated that ICLEI is providing another

cohort training on the use of a new tool that will calculate the changes in GHG sequestration when changes are made. Tara also spoke about a USDA program, called COMET that an intern could use to calculate the effectiveness of the 670 trees we already planted.

Community Solar Array. Currently, the project is on hold.

Danskammer: Franco reported there was no change to this.

ICLEI and Community GHG Study – Mark presented a draft copy of the Community GHG study. It is very extensive and well documented. Mark showed that even with the GHG emissions, largely from transportation, we still offset all of it and capture GHG emissions from surrounding areas. He is working on finalizing the document and will provide it to the Committee members, hopefully in August. A presentation will be made to the Town Board in September if possible.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 1st @ 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe and save energy!



Submitted by Stephen Weir