



## Minutes of the May 3, 2023, Meeting Held on Zoom at 7 p.m.

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

**Task Force Members Excused:** Rick Irizarry, and Suger Rowinski.

**Guests:** Ikumi Sato and Paul Kiesler.

### Opening Remarks

Jason opened the meeting. The minutes of the April 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved. Jason indicated that he had sent the CSG's Letter of Support for the Parks and Recreation project at Majestic Park. Jason reported that the quarterly Gardiner Gazette update was also sent.

### Old Business

**BAGS TO BENCH CHALLENGE**  
Recycle plastic bags, films and wraps into a bench for Gardiner Library!

Trex, the world's largest manufacturer of wood-alternative decking products will repurpose our plastic bags and films into a bench that will be donated to Gardiner Library.

What can be recycled?  
Grocery bags, Food wrappers, Bubble wrap, Packing peanuts, Newspaper, Magazines, Paper, Paper bags, Paper cups, Paper plates, Paper napkins, Paper towels, Paper bags, Paper cups, Paper plates, Paper napkins, Paper towels.

Drop off your clean dry, food-free plastic products in the bins at the teachers' lounge and/or cafeteria until the end of the school year. Thank you!

New Paltz GARDINER LIBRARY

**Bags to Benches Challenge.** Rebecca reported that the town is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way towards collecting the 500 lbs. needed to have a bench built by TREK. Holly has contacted the businesses on Steve's Lane and at Mohonk. Collection points are the NP High School and the Gardiner Library. Posters and publicity are being sent out and word was broadcasted at the New Paltz Earth Day.

**Repair Café.** The regional Cafe program was highlighted on the April 21<sup>st</sup> Today show and local Gardiner residents Holly Shader, Don Grice and Erik Hoover were featured. NY Times wrote an article on the Cafe's mission and there was so much feedback that the Cafe web site crashed. Rebecca also featured the event on our Facebook page.



**New Paltz Earth Day Event.** Mark briefed that the event was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and happily 92% of the waste collected did not go to the landfill. The Church provided reusable cutlery and vegan food. Gardiner's contributions of "seed bombs" for pollinating was an enormous hit. Bruderhof did the face painting.

**Ulster County CSC.** Kim mentioned that she was working with Melissa Evert on sustainability goals.

**CCA.** Franco reported that the Town Board met and approved the pricing proposal. He is going to attend a webinar on the 30 day opt out option. In June, Joule is doing another outreach. Letters are going out this month to those eligible to join the CCA explaining the pricing and options. Franco also mentioned that Gardiner was to receive an Environmental Champion Award on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the NP Courthouse. Joule awards these to several communities that have made great strides and Gardiner was recognized for its achievement of a Bronze Certification, its preparation of the Community Climate Action plan, the NRI, its fleet inventory, the conversion of street light and being a Repair Cafe host.

**Riverkeeper.** Rebecca briefed that everything was ready to go. She has enlisted 43 volunteers and on May 6<sup>th</sup>, these volunteers will clear debris in and around the Wallkill River and Majestic Park, Farmer's Turnpike and the Hoffman Road area. Brian Stiscia's Highway Dept. will pick up the debris. and everything is ready. He said that the event will be publicized on the CSG FB page and Jason will attempt to get it on the Town blast.

**Disaster Preparedness Plan.** Steve W. and Franco met on April 25<sup>th</sup> with Supervisor Majestic and Brian Stiscia. The concern about this point is not to duplicate the County's efforts. Ulster County is accumulating data in this area and the intent is to publish information on all town web sites as to emergency responses. Steve indicated that once this is done, the Town's Emergency Plan will be rewritten to cover the procedures needed by Town officials. All agreed that the major potential disasters were flooding, forest fires and major weather events. One



major concern was to ensure that town residents did not use Libertyville Road or Rt 44/55 towards Ellenville for evacuation.

**Cooling Centers.** Ikumi briefed that she has researched the several types of generators and the safety requirements of each and published these for use. The Committee thanked her for her efforts as this was her last meeting.

**LED.** Franco indicated that the initiative is ready to go. The only matter to be decided is how much to procure now and when and how much to pay NYPA. Franco is pushing to buy 100% and pay NYPA \$75K which includes the buyout of the lamps. Franco indicated that there is still a 90-day lead time on procurement.

**Composting.** No updates on this.

**Arbor Day.** Franco reported that the plan was to plant evergreens near the Transfer Station, but the Transfer Station has objections. Franco to speak to Supervisor Majestic about this. He liked Tara's idea to bring in a landscape architect to provide a vision. Nevertheless, the concern is that the site has to be finalized in order to get a grant approved.

**Green Schools.** Paul K. inquired as to how we could get traction on this initiative with the New Paltz School Board. Money is available. It was mentioned that getting a certain nominee on the Board would be positive, but CSG members rejected an endorsement, indicating that we should remain non-partisan.

**Green Purchasing Procedure.** No updates on this.

**Danskammer:** No updates.

**Building Audits.** No change from last month.

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

### **Closing Notes and Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 7 @ 7 p.m. on Zoom. Stay safe, save energy and enjoy your environment!



Submitted by Stephen Weir