



Minutes of the May 6th, 2020 Meeting Held on Microsoft Teams

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

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

Guests In Attendance: Mariam Varian, Tara Hoey, Francis Gonzalez, Cliff Beinart and James Brigagliano.

Opening: Jason opened the meeting. The prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Jason introduced James to present a Dark Skies presentation.

Dark Skies:

James explained that Dark Skies is an initiative to reduce the amount of light needed by eliminating unnecessary and mis-directed lighting that not only wastes resources but also could result in accidents and residential complaints. James explained that professional lighting installers seek to eliminate/reduce sky glow (light that is reflected off the sky) and light trespass (light that goes where it is not intended). This is done by installing fixtures where the bulbs are shielded properly, and ensuring the bulbs used meet Consolidated Color Temperature (CCT) standards. He wants the Committee to advocate for town codes. Franco volunteered to help write the code.

Introductory Remarks

Recurring Business:

1. **CCA.** The town law passed on April 4th. Mark briefed on the Capital District meeting and noted that Jeff Zemanski, Joule explained how they are pushing for community solar power as a primary



sustainable offering. Mark also covered the April 28th meeting of the Westchester County CCA which is now on their second contract. He noted that Westchester's program is being hampered by lower fuel prices due to oversupply. Westchester also noted that HEAP clients have no way to request CCA.

2. **Gardiner CCA.** Mark, Franco and Steve met on-line with Joule. We were generally impressed with their thorough answers and plans. Joule offered to be our energy advisor and offered flexible options. Our next step is to interview Good Energy. Mark will attempt to set up the meeting. Franco will arrange to brief the Town Board.
3. **EV Charging Station.** Jason reported that the project is on hold until the cessation of the Coronavirus. Marybeth has advised Jason that the grant money was extended until the end of the year.
4. **Natural Resources Inventory.** Franco indicated that Roberta of the Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC) had emailed the Town Board asking for a presentation in June or July. Steve reminded all that we can only obtain point credit provided the inventory is consistent with the DEC requirements and that further points are allowed if approved by the Town Board and published on the Town web site. Jason remarked that the ECC has worked with the DEC on the project.
5. **Climate Smart Communities Portal:** Steve updated the committee on the portal progress. He indicated that we appear to have 93 points documented but that a review will be needed to ensure this is correct. Mark briefed that the Board had reviewed and approved the Climate Action Plan on April 14th. Mark indicated that the Board had introduced the possibility of purchasing an EV vehicle in lieu of having town officials use their own vehicles for town business. This will require further research.
6. **Climate Smart Youth Taskforce.** No updates at this time.
7. **CSC Outreach to Interested Municipalities.** Kim has scrapped this for now due to the pandemic. The Ulster County Fair is likely to be delayed.
8. **Riversweep.** The annual cleaning of garbage from the Wallkill River is postponed until October 17th, 2020.
9. **LED:** We need to figure out next steps as we have difficulty with Central Hudson. Dark Skies presenter, James offered to assist us on this initiative.
10. **Trees for Tribs.** We are trying to find ways to protect the plants from snowplows. Several committee members questioned if now is the time to remove the piping.
11. **Solar Array.** No update on this but Franco is concerned about NYS Home Rule.

New Business

Community GHG Study. Mark called Nat Roberts, a government consultant to the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Through them, we can obtain software to do the study correctly for \$600. Note: Mark has indicated that groups not using this software ran into trouble getting credit. The Committee will seek out grants or getting funding through our EXPO, when held.

Virtual Gardening Presentation. Franco indicated that presentations could be arranged thru FB Live.

Closing Notes and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The **next meeting** will be June 3rd at the Town Hall @ 7 p.m. or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe!



Submitted by Stephen Weir