

Town of Hurley

Climate Smart Task Force

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: May 9, 2023

Present via Zoom: Task Force Members – Erin Nylen, Kristen Schara (Coordinator)

Absent: Lynne Bailey, Peter McKnight

Agenda

Continuing Business

Memorial Day Public Engagement Opportunity

PE2 – Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP)

PE 9 - Climate Change Education and Engagement – (plan)

Rail trail (not) mowing

PE 3/CEC - Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings

New Business

PE6 – Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements

CEC – Climate Smart Communities Certification (up to 800)

NYS Green Purchasing Community

Actions that we can work on this year or eventually for recertification:

PE 5 – Residential Organic Waste Program (Composting)

CEC - Clean Heating and Cooling Demo

PE 6 – NRI, Zoning for Protection of Natural Areas

PE3/CEC – LED Street Lights

PE3/CEC – Energy Code Enforcement Training

Minutes

Memorial Day Public Engagement Opportunity

- Business cards with “learn about ways to save money and save the planet!”
- QR code on flip side and a link to our website - article on website - to rewiring america as well
- Erin to design and send to Kristen
- Kristen to look into account at staples to get printed - smallest run that we are allowed - make sure paper is recyclable

PE2 – Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP)

- Meetings/sessions are really valuable and Kristen is learning how to create a plan (we can work on creating an actual plan when there’s time and other priority items are finished)
- All about your govt operations (fleet, land use etc.)

PE 9 - Climate Change Education and Engagement – (plan)

- Erin to work on this when there's time
- Add:
 - Kristen volunteering at Kingston Earth Fair on Saturday
 - Creation of business cards

Rail trail (not) mowing

- No-mow may is not universally accepted (because it can cause problems for your lawn in some cases)
- Instead of doing a demonstration we are not mowing the strip in between the edge of the mowed area along the highway and the side of the rail trail until the fall (so that both sides of the rail trail are mowed and all the bench areas are mowed)

PE 3/CEC - Benchmarking - Municipal Buildings

- Kristen updated our files in our google drive from 2019 so that the new Central Hudson account numbers are on there so going forward we can line them up with the new data that we get
- Lynne and Peter can look at this benchmarking next month
- Peter will hopefully get on the town board meeting agenda to present his solar mapping presentation

CEC – Climate Smart Communities Certification (up to 800)

- Kristen added our CSC certification
- Solarize gives us points
- Clean heating and cooling demo would also count - Kristen will put data together to show the difference between before we installed heat pump and after
- We need to do four actions total to get the certification

PE6 – Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements

- Look into the additional items we'd need to count the comprehensive plan towards certification (standard that we should be trying to adhere to)
- Erin will
 - flag things that might be missing in our CP that we'd need to achieve the PE6 action
 - compare with Woodstock and Saugerties CPs:
 - Look into within the climate change section - says our town's initiative's are set forth in our CSTF website and incorporates the town's Climate Plan by reference - this plan should be good for 10 years, the CSTF website seems less evergreen than the actual CP
 - This could be edited...look at other towns and see if this language is in their CPs as well.
- As a committee should we submit our comments on the Comprehensive Plan (as well as the CAC)

NYS Green Purchasing Community

- Kristen heard about at GOCAP meeting
- To participate in this NYS program we would have to add another paragraph to the Hurley environmental purchasing policy

- Paragraph includes language like “Hurley purchasing officer should follow the green procurement specification” and directs to a website with guidelines for items commonly purchased by municipalities (everything from construction materials to electronics and appliances and office supplies) and highlights what to look for
- If we add this piece in & pass the resolution again –we can apply for this certification and become a green purchasing community that moves the market toward more sustainable
- Kristen will send this language and this resource to the CSTF to review to see if this resource/paragraph would be helpful to add into our policy and repass to help people make decisions.
- Erin asked about ensuring people are following these policies - some kind of oversight is needed
- Kristen asked if we’re following these policies does it reduce the town’s liability (e.g., healthier products)
- Can the CSTF look at what’s been purchased? Town Clerk presents vouchers and it gets paid through the bookkeeper - the Town Board sees all these vouchers and reviews
- The CSTF will discuss whether looking at these purchases for adherence to our policy would be useful to make sure our procurement policy has teeth/for becoming a green purchasing community or whether it’s too onerous for folks

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Miscellaneous

- Erin mentioned that her colleague will sit in on next CAC meeting depending on his schedule - we could consider recruiting him for the CSTF if he has no conflict of interest with his work with Scenic Hudson and has the bandwidth
- Stakeholder meeting for the Ulster County Reuse center - May 23 11:30-1pm on Zoom - Kristen will send the email about this to Melinda McKnight and the rest of the task force along with the survey for us to take
- The transfer station is keeping some reusable items - and they’re not sure where to put them or if they’re going to keep doing it based on capacity (maybe Habitat ReStore or Salvation Army could pick up the items?)
- Erin will be gone for the June 13th meeting we’ll see whether others will be around or if we need to cancel