

## TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – March 26, 2024

The March 26, 2024 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:04 pm. Committee members and guests in attendance were as follows:

Eliot Werner, Deputy Town Supervisor & CSC Task Force Representative  
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair  
Jack Persely, CSC Task Force Member  
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member, via phone  
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member  
Anna Harrod-McGrew, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Rick Jakubowski, interested Town of Clinton resident

### **Introduction**

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's meeting agenda and asked members if there were any questions or additions to the minutes of the previous meeting on February 27, 2024. With no questions, the minutes of the February 27, 2024 meeting were accepted by acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

### **Bronze Certification Review and Status Update**

Much of the meeting's discussion continued to focus on the timely topic of the assessment of the Town's Bronze Application status, as conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension's Anna Harrod-McGrew. Anna responded to questions from CSC Task Force members regarding the collection of data and documentation to be submitted in the aggregate, with all actions eligible for points to be considered toward approval of the CSC Task Force Bronze Certification application, with an anticipated submittal date on or before July 5, 2024, instead of April 4, 2024, given the need for additional time. It also was agreed that submitting documentation at this time via a Google doc rather than via the official template would be easier to assess prior to submitting using the template.

A question about the availability of the Town Vehicle Fleet Inventory was raised, and the task is almost completed in a format required for submittal of this documentation for Bronze certification review and consideration. A concern also was discussed regarding the long-term archival documentation of CSC Task Force and CAC actions for Bronze certification use, as well as for documentation for future Silver certification. It was opined that website data alone would not suffice for this purpose in the long term. The suggestion was made that a more viable process be discussed and implemented.

The following related topics also were discussed:

- At the March 13, 2024 Clinton Town Board meeting, a resolution accepting the recently-completed Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for the Town of Clinton was approved by a unanimous Board vote. A brief report re: the collaborative, grant funded NRI effort with the Town of Washington and the Village of Millbrook, was provided at the start of the Board meeting, prior to action by the Town Board.
- The Town Board has been requested to adopt a Climate Change Education and Engagement resolution at the April Town Board meeting in support of the CAC's/CSC Task Force's strategies to

generate points toward Bronze certification. Currently, these activities include information regarding the CAC and the Climate Smart Communities Task Force on the Town website, as well as through a link to the newly-developed CAC/CSC Task Force web page developed by CAC member Jenn Brown. These education and engagement activities will result in the dissemination of information to the public regarding resources provided to inform, educate, and engage community members on the topic of climate change.

- Additional documentation will be collected and submitted regarding all other actions that are eligible for points toward Bronze certification, including municipal solar panels, benchmarking, municipal climate action planning, fleet inventory information, and road/stream crossing inventory data.

### **Website Improvement**

Given the process to submit documentation to NYSERDA for Bronze Certification, and the Task Force's desire to meet the certification criterion providing for web site availability of the CAC's and Task Force's work, it was decided to post the necessary information as a link to the Town of Clinton's website. Efforts to make such information available via social media, while ongoing, have been satisfied with recent Town website postings. In addition, Jenn Brown, a member of the Clinton CAC, has completed a CAC/CSC Task Force webpage, dedicated specifically to the CAC and CSC Task Force's work, which is linked to the Town website.

### **Future Planning**

In addition to completing and submitting an application to NYSERDA for Bronze Certification, with assistance from Task Force members and CCE's Anna Harrod-McGrew prior to the next deadline of July 2024, the CSC Task Force is also awaiting information from CCE's Sean Carroll about pursuing a Riparian Buffer Planning/Planting project during 2024.

Joe Phelan also reported that several members of the CAC and CSC Task Force had attended and presented at the Annual CAC and EMC Roundtable sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension on Thursday, February 29, along with leaders from other area municipalities, regarding their organizations' work during 2023.

A question also was raised about the current composition of the CSC Task Force, some of whose members have not been participating in the Task Force's work for months or more. Joe Phelan has reached out to inactive members to ask them about interest in their continuing membership, with the possibility of recruiting community members who might want to serve in their place depending on their interest. Joe reported that several community members have decided not to continue their membership. Eliot will provide information to the CSC Task Force about community members who have expressed interest in this environmental service to the Town, to be recommended to the Town Board for appointment.

By agreement of the Task Force members present, the next meeting of the Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge, a week later than the usual monthly meeting date due to the availability of the Chair on April 23. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair