

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – May 28, 2024

The May 28, 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
Todd Martin, CSC Task Force Member
Anna Harrod-McGrew, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Elizabeth Sun, Hudson Valley Regional Council Clean Energy Communities Coordinator
Judy Malstrom, community member

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 March 26, 2024, the scheduled April 30, 2024 meeting having been cancelled. With no questions, the minutes of the March 26, 2024 meeting were accepted by acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding Presentation

Elizabeth Sun, the Hudson Valley Regional Council's Clean Energy Communities Coordinator provided information to the CSC Task Force members present regarding Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding. Two grant opportunities exist, for a potential total of approximately \$60,000, while the \$25 million in statewide funding pool through this program is still available. Funding through this program could be generated through application by the CSC Task for one or more Clean Energy related projects/purchases which the CSC Task Force has been discussing while engaging in initiatives to qualify the Town of Clinton for Bronze certification. This activity itself also could generate additional points toward the next level of certification. Task Force members discussed possible goals for use of grant funding under this program, including the potential cost of evaluating and implementing strategies to make the Town's highway garage more energy efficient, to begin the purchase of electric power tools and vehicles, and/or to install a vehicle charging station at the Clinton Town Hall campus.

Task Force members were excited about exploring the possibilities of participation in this Clean Energy Communities grant program further, as a follow-up to the submittal of the application for Bronze certification.

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 has been reviewing the documentation necessary for successful application submittal, and has reported to the Task Force that we are close to being able to submit our application, prior to the July 7, 2024 deadline

for the current application round, given a few last minute data tweaks that Anna has been collecting and reviewing on behalf of the Clinton CSC Task Force.

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 7, 2024, and to pursuing the details of an application for a Clean Energy Communities grant through the Hudson Valley Regional Council, the CSC Task Force is also awaiting information from the Cornell Cooperative Extension about pursuing a Riparian Buffer Planning/Planting project during 2024, given that Sean Carroll, our CCE contact for this project, has left the employment of CCE for other related employment in the area. Anna will update the CSC Task Force about the status of that work as soon as possible.

A question also was raised about the current composition of the CSC Task Force, some of whose members have not been able to participate in the Task Force's work for months or more. Since the last Task Force meeting, 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 interest and availability. Joe reported that several community members have decided not to continue their CSC Task Force membership. As a follow-up, Eliot has provided information to Joe about possibilities for new CSC Task Force members, which he will review with the Task Force at the next CSC Task Force meeting in June 2024.

Public Attendance at CSC Task Force Meetings

A member of the Town of Clinton community, Judy Malstrom, attended this meeting after reaching out to the Clinton CAC's Barbara Mansell, and raised her concerns about establishing a composting program in the Town of Clinton as a response to Dutchess County's incinerator burning of residential waste, and her interest in establishing a committee to do so. Such an initiative had been raised previously with the CAC, with the concern about the need in a rural community where homeowners interested in composting likely are already engaged in this activity on their own property. The Task Force will discuss this idea at a future meeting.

The next meeting of the Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair