

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – July 23, 2024

The July 23, 2024 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:01 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
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member
Jack Persely, CSC Task Force Member
Richard Marshall, CSD Task Force Member
Judy Malstrom, community member
Patrick Studley, 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 of June 25, 2024. With no questions, the minutes of the June 25, 2024 meeting were accepted by acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

Bronze Certification Review and Status Update

Joe Phelan reported that, on behalf of the Town of Clinton, Cornell Cooperative Extension's Anna Harrod-McGrew submitted the Town of Clinton CSC Task Force's application for Bronze Certification to NYSERDA on July 11, 2024. Based upon previous Bronze certification review cycles, it is anticipated that the Town will not receive notice of a determination until some time in early Fall, likely in September 2024.

Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding

Joe Phelan reported to the Task Force that, just that afternoon, he had received an e-mail from NYSERDA earlier in the day, notifying him that, based upon the Town of Clinton's record of high-impact actions, the Town has qualified for a \$10,000 grant under NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program. An on-line grant application for these funds must be filed no later than October 23, 2024 to access these grant funds.

As a follow-up to this notice, the Task Force will work with Elizabeth Sun, the Hudson Valley Regional Council's Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, to access information regarding allowable Clean Energy Communities-related projects/purchases with these grant funds, and to request her assistance in completing the grant application prior to the October deadline date.

Future Planning

The Task Force briefly discussed working toward completion of the Municipal Climate Action Plan, with the assistance and support of the Hudson Valley Regional Council's Eleanor Peck. This work was begun this past year, but was not able to be completed prior to the submittal of the Town's Bronze Certification submittal. Other future projects, such as the Riparian Buffer study and planning are awaiting Cornell Cooperative Extension staffing decisions.

Clinton Community Day Presence/Display

The Task Force discussed plans for a presence at the upcoming Clinton Community Day event on August 31, with a display of the required and optional Bronze Certification pledge elements that were submitted on behalf of the Town of Clinton, totaling 150 points, 30 points above the minimum number required for Bronze Certification. Planned presentation materials were discussed and several members of the CSC Task Force agreed to staff the table to explain and discuss Clinton CSC Task Force initiatives and the NYSERDA Bronze Certification process.

Public Attendance at CSC Task Force Meetings

Judy Malstrom and Patrick Studley, both members of the Town of Clinton community, attended this month's CSC Task Force meeting and participated in the meeting discussion. In particular, they commented on the topic of establishing a composting program at the Town of Clinton campus as a response to Dutchess County's incinerator-burning of residential waste, as well as on CSC Task Force other discussion topics.

Feedback from the Task Force members during the discussion indicated an interest in learning more about the County's trash-burning incinerator work, as well as the feasibility and implementation of a local Town-centered composting program. Again this month, while some interest was expressed in the establishment of a Town composting program, concern was raised about the need for such a program in a community with rural population density, where homeowners interested in composting may already be engaged in this activity on their own property. However, it was suggested that the CSC Task Force's presence at the upcoming Clinton Community Days on August 31, 2024 be used to survey attendees from the Town of Clinton regarding their potential interest/support.

Potential New Members for the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Following previous discussions about recruiting new members for appointment by the Town Board, Eliot Werner had provided the Task Force with the names of three Clinton residents who had expressed potential interest in volunteer service related to the goals of the CSC Task Force. Along with a fourth individual who had attended a past recent CSC Task Force meeting, Joe Phelan has reached out to these individuals to determine their possible interest in their involvement with the service work with which the Task Force is engaged. He is in the process of following up with those individuals who have expressed an interest, to answer their questions and determine their ongoing interest before making recommendations to the CSC Task Force and, ultimately, to bring the names of these interested individuals to the Town Board for appointment. Tonight's meeting attendees also expressed an interest.

The next meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair

