

## TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – Oct 22, 2024

The October 22, 2024 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:00 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  
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member  
Stan Orser, CSC Task Force Member  
Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force Member (via Zoom)  
Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Member  
Don Lewis, community member

### **Introduction**

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's meeting agenda, along with newly Town Board-appointed CSC Task Force member Stan Orser. Following Stan's welcoming, Joe then asked members if there were any questions or additions to the minutes of the previous meeting of September 24, 2024. With no questions raised, the minutes of the September 24, 2024 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

### **Bronze Certification Signage Display**

Joe Phelan reported that Clinton's Bronze Certification signage, one of which Eliot brought to this meeting, should be posted to inform the community and generate support for the Town's ongoing work in this regard. Joe reported that he has suggested that one of the two signs we have received be posted outside the Town Hall, perhaps in one of the two display cases on either side of the doors to the Town Hall, preferably by itself for maximum exposure, if space will allow. Joe also suggested this Town Hall posting be made before Election Day 2024, to capture the attention of those community members arriving to vote on November 5<sup>th</sup>, and thereafter. Regarding the second sign, the Fran Mark Park Pavilion was suggested as a possible second location for posting, although there may be other possibilities that could be considered. It also was noted that the Town's press release on the recent Bronze Certification designation recently had been published in the Hudson Valley Pilot and the Northern Dutchess News.

### **Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding**

A grant application for a \$10,000 CEC grant has been submitted to NYSERDA by the Task Force, with a focus on requesting funding for a NYSERDA energy study of the Town Highway Garage and to begin addressing the study's recommendations. Support from Elizabeth Sun, the Hudson Valley Regional Council's Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, and input from Todd Martin, Town Highway Supervisor, was instrumental in completing and submitting the grant application. We're told that we should be receiving a response to our application by mid-November.

### **Additional Grant Funding Availability for Composting**

The CSC Task Force discussed applying for a composting grant from Dutchess County, but declined to do so at this point in time. Joe had brought this recently re-opened municipal grant opportunity from Dutchess County to the Task Force's attention. This grant offered a 50% local match toward an in-vessel aerobic composter (up to \$50,000) or a food waste drop-off program (up to \$20,000), with a November 7, 2024 application deadline. The Task Force has discussed municipal composting in the Town of Clinton for several months, but decided not to pursue the grant at this time, absent sufficient details as to how this could be a viable project in a rural municipality such as the Town of Clinton. Task Force members indicated that many Town residents who are interested in composting already are likely doing so on their own property. The discussion indicated that without a sufficiently dense population and very few restaurants and/or other food preparation organizations/institutions that are not already composting or generating sufficient compostables on regular basis, a municipal composting program may not be viable, at least at this point in time, on a scale to warrant a Town composting program.

### **Future Planning**

The Task Force briefly discussed working toward completion of a Municipal Climate Action Plan, with the assistance and support of Eleanor Peck and Elizabeth Sun of the Hudson Valley Regional Council. This work was begun this past year through the efforts of CSC Task Force member Richard Marshall, but was unable to be completed prior to the submittal of the Town's Bronze Certification application in July 2024. A Zoom meeting with Ms. Peck, Ms. Sun, and Richard Marshall on this topic will be pursued this Fall.

In addition, it was pointed out that Clinton Community Day, at which the CSC Task Force had in prior years provided and staffed an information table, was being discussed for an alternate date in early June 2025, instead of in early September 2025.

Also, due to potential conflicts of the currently scheduled November and December CSC Task Force meetings with the upcoming holidays during those two months, the Task Force will investigate possible alternate dates and available locations for their meetings in November and December 2024. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair