

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – Dec 17, 2024

The December 17, 2024 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:02 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
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member
Stan Orser, CSC Task Force Member (via mobile phone)
Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Member
Judy Malstrom, community member
Patrick Studley, community member

Introduction

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's meeting agenda, then asked members if there were any questions or additions to the minutes of the previous meeting of October 22, 2024. With no questions raised, the minutes of the October 22, 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 was posted in early November 2024, prior to the November 5, 2024 Election Day, to inform the community and generate support for the Town's ongoing work in this regard.

Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding

Joe Phelan updated the CSC Task Force regarding the status of the \$10,000 CEC grant that has been submitted to, and approved by, NYSERDA by the Task Force. The focus of the funding request is to conduct 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.

Joe also informed the Committee that the Town of Clinton has been notified that it is eligible to submit a grant application for a \$50,000 grant. With ongoing support from HVRC's Elizabeth Sun and the Town of Clinton Highway Supervisor Todd Martin, the grant application has been submitted, with the goal of using the funding to implement more extensive recommendations resulting from the energy study to be constructed from the initial CEC \$10K grant. The grant application was submitted on December 12, 2024, and the Town should receive word about approval of the \$50k grant in January 2025.

Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Initiative Proposal

Joe Phelan and Barbara Mansell, Chair of the Town of Clinton CAC, were contacted by representatives of the Dutchess and Columbia-Greene Cornell Cooperative Extensions asking whether our groups would be interested in participating in a municipal-based Climate Smart resiliency Planning Initiative to address data collection activity regarding the Town of Clinton's preparation for possible future crises/natural disasters resulting from the results of climate change. They asked, if interested, that we provide them with a letter of interest for their use in generating grant funding from the Hudson Valley Estuary Program. Barbara and Joe each provided a letter indicating their group's interest, but that no further communication regarding grant funding support had been received.

Iroquois Pipeline Request

Joe Phelan received a request from the Chair of the Town of Poughkeepsie Climate Smart Communities Task Force, urging us to request our Town Board to pass a resolution opposing planned infrastructure improvements to the Iroquois Pipeline in order to deliver more natural gas from Canada to New York City more safely through the aging Iroquois Pipeline infrastructure, which runs north to south through from north to south through the Town of Clinton on its way from Athens and Hudson, NY through Pleasant Valley to Dover, and then on to NYC. In reaching out to make Town Supervisor Michel Whitton aware of the request, Michael informed us that he already had sent an e-mail opposing the plan. The CSC Task Force discussed the request with mixed thinking, and I relayed that information to the Town of Poughkeepsie CSC Chair, who again urged the Town of Clinton Board to pass a resolution to that effect. Based upon CSC Task Force discussion, Joe Phelan responded that we would leave any further action on the part of the Clinton Town Board up to their discretion.

Future Planning

The Task Force may resume 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 were 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 later this year.

There also was a brief discussion about potential interest in and attendance at a demonstration of rural municipal composting in the New Paltz area. At this point, while there appeared to be some interest, it was unclear which of the possible dates, if any, would work for those CSC Task Force members with interest in a "field trip."

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, has been set for Saturday, June 7, 2025, instead of in early September 2025.

The next meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair