

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – Jan. 28, 2025

The January 28, 2025 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
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member
Stan Orser, CSC Task Force Member
Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Member
Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force Member (via Zoom)
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 December 17, 2024. With no questions raised, the minutes of the December 17, 2024 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

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 to conduct a NYSERDA energy study of the Town Highway Garage and to begin addressing the study's recommendations. A scoping meeting was conducted on January 13, 2025. The Town of Clinton's Joe Phelan, Todd Martin, Michael Whitton and Eliot Werner were in attendance, along with NYSERDA's Jaden Beck, HVRC's Elizabeth Sun, and a representative from the energy audit firm, LS-Energy. The Town should be informed in several weeks regarding a date for the energy audit, likely in mid-March, with a report and recommendation for possible improvements to follow 6-8 weeks later.

Joe also informed the Committee that the Town of Clinton has not yet been notified regarding the status of its application for a \$50,000 grant to implement energy audit recommendations. The grant application was submitted on December 12, 2024.

Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Initiative Proposal

The Town of Clinton has not yet been informed by representatives of the Dutchess and Columbia-Greene Cornell Cooperative Extensions regarding grant funding from the Hudson Valley Estuary Program for participation 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.

Iroquois Pipeline Request

The CSC Task Force discussed the request that had been received from for the Chair of the Town of Poughkeepsie Climate Smart Communities Task Force, urging us to request the Clinton 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 to Hudson, NY then from Clinton through Pleasant Valley to Dover, and then on to NYC. Upon inquiring with Town Supervisor Michel Whitton, he had informed the CSC Task Force that he already had sent an e-mail opposing the plan. The CSC Task Force again discussed the request and Joe Phelan reminded the group that he had responded that we would leave any further action on the part of the Clinton Town Board up to their discretion.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program

The CSC Task Force members discussed various aspects of the Community Choice Aggregation program that the Town of Clinton, as well as several other area municipalities, are again considering participation. Clinton had participated in this program several years ago, until financial difficulties with the vendor caused the program to be discontinued, but which is again being offered to area municipalities, again on an “opt-out” basis. It should be noted that Town of Clinton participation in the CCA program in 2021 generated 15 points toward the 135 total points accumulated for the Town’s designation as a New York State Bronze Climate Smart Community in September 2024.

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 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 later this year.

It also was discussed that, with Clinton Community Day scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2025, the CSC Task Force should begin discussions as to what information/displays should be featured at a CSC Task Force table, as it has in prior years.

The next meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair