

## **TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – Feb 25, 2025**

The February 25, 2025 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force was called to order at 7:02 pm. Committee members 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  
Melissa Karchmer, CSC Task Force Member  
Stan Orser, CSC Task Force Member  
Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Member  
Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force Member (via Zoom)

### **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 January 28, 2025. With no questions raised, the minutes of the January 28, 2025 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 was submitted to, and approved by, NYSERDA for the Task Force to conduct a NYSERDA energy study of the Town Highway Garage and to begin addressing the study's recommendations. As a result of the January 13, 2025 scoping meeting conducted on January 13, 2025, the Town is expecting to be informed by late February/early March 2025 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 still has not yet been notified regarding the status of its application for the \$50,000 grant to implement energy audit recommendations. The grant application was submitted on December 12, 2024.

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Outreach**

The Town of Clinton has been contacted by Scott Kleinberg, the new Climate and Environment Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC). Scott reached out via e-mail to introduce himself and to inform us about the planning for the annual CAC/EMC Roundtable Event in Spring 2025. While a date has not yet been set for late March 2025, follow-up communication will confirm the Event's date/ time and provide the agenda and the expectations from all participants, including the Clinton CAC and the Clinton CSC Task Force, which is a subcommittee of the Clinton CSC.

Scott Kleinberg also reached out to solicit dates for an upcoming meeting to be held to confirm details for participation in the municipally-based Climate Smart Resiliency Planning initiative to address data collection activities regarding the Town of Clinton's policies in addressing possible future crises/natural disasters resulting from the results of climate change.

### **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program**

The CSC Task Force members briefly discussed the ongoing status of the Town Board's discussions re: participation in the Community Choice Aggregation program. The Clinton Town Board, as well as the boards in several other neighboring municipalities, are again discussing participation. Clinton had participated in this program several years ago, until the vendor's financial difficulties caused the program to be discontinued, but which is again being offered to area municipalities, on an "opt-out" basis. It should be noted that Town of Clinton's participation in the CCA program in 2021 generated 15 points toward the 135 total points accumulated toward the Town's designation as a New York State Bronze Climate Smart Community in September 2024.

### **Municipal Climate Action Plan**

The Climate Smart Communities Task Force, through the leadership and work of Richard Marshall, will resume working toward completion of a Municipal Climate Action Plan, with the assistance and support of 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. In response to the Clinton CSC Task Force's request for assistance, Ms. Sun has indicated the HVRC's interest in providing support of this initiative, and Richard Marshall has agreed to work toward pursuing this initiative this year.

### **Future Planning**

With Clinton Community Day scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2025, the CSC Task Force members have indicated their interest in participating again this year's. Melissa Karchmer, a member of the CSC Task Force as well as the community committee planning Clinton Community Day 2025, queried the CSC Task Force regarding their interest in participating, and Joe Phelan his intent to complete and submit the application for the Task Force's participation. Several ideas were put forth regarding possible information that could be featured at a CSC Task Force table/display, as it has been featured in prior years.

Joe Phelan also informed the Task Force members of recent outreach from community member Judy Malstrom regarding possible interest from Task Force members in a site visit to a rural composting facility in the New Paltz area in Ulster County during March or April 2025. Given interest expressed by some Task Force members, Joe will respond to Judy regarding this interest for a visit on the part of Task Force members.

The next meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair

