

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

The March 25, 2025 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force was called to order at 7:01pm. 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 (via Zoom)  
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member  
Stan Orser, CSC Task Force Member (via Zoom)  
Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Member  
Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force 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 February 25, 2025. With no objections raised, the minutes of the February 25, 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 facility and to begin addressing the study's recommendations. A date of Monday, April 14, 2025 has been set for the energy audit to commence. The Town is expecting to be informed several weeks thereafter regarding a report and recommendation for possible improvements. The Town will have the remaining funds of approximately \$5,000 from the initial \$10K NYSERDA grant, as well as \$50,000 from the recently approved second NYSERDA grant, written with the support of the Hudson Valley Regional Council's Elizabeth Sun, to implement recommendations identified by the energy audit.

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

Joe Phelan and Barbara Mansell have met with Scott Kleinberg, the new Climate and Environment Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC), at his request, to learn more about the municipalities he will be serving in his new position. Scott had reached out via e-mail to introduce himself and to inform us about planning for the annual CAC/EMC Roundtable Event on April 26, 2025

Scott will also schedule a date for an upcoming meeting with Joe and Barbara to discuss and 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 were informed that the Clinton Town Board had recently deferred making a commitment to participation in the Community Choice Aggregation program, pending a reduction in the cost of sustainably-sourced electricity in this “opt-out” basis program. It was noted at a previous CSC Task Force meeting that the 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.

### **Governmental Organization Climate Action Plan**

The Climate Smart Communities Task Force, through the leadership and work of Richard Marshall, will resume working toward addressing and completing a Governmental Organization Climate Action Plan (GOCAP), with the assistance and support of Elizabeth Sun of the Hudson Valley Regional Council. Richard and Joe met with Elizabeth on Monday, March 24 to discuss moving forward with this initiative to address and improve the Town’s environmental footprint. 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 begun providing support for this initiative, and Richard Marshall has agreed to continue work toward pursuing this initiative this year. Joe and Richard asked for several volunteers from the CSC Task Force to help out in completing the GOCAP prior to completion, consideration of approval by the Clinton Town Board, leading to implementation of the adopted plan.

### **Future Planning**

With Clinton Community Day scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2025, the CSC Task Force members have indicated their interest in participating again at this year’s community event. Joe has completed the vendor form for the CSC Task Force table, which will be submitted along with the CAC vendor form. CSC Task Force members were asked to make suggestions for public outreach display topics/materials, as well as to step forward to each volunteer for several hours to staff the table on June 7, 2025 at the Clinton Historical Society building on Salt Point Turnpike.

Joe Phelan also reported to the Task Force members of a recent visit to a composting/community garden project at a church in the Huguenot area of New Paltz, NY, brought to the Task Force’s attention by community member, Judy Malstrom, and visited on March 13, 2025 by Judy, Michael Whitton, Joe Phelan, and Patrick Studley, another community member. Given the scale of this particular project in New Paltz, it appeared to several of the Clinton attendees that the scale of such a composting project might be more appropriate for a community garden in the Town in collaboration with broader participation by an interested local organization.

The next meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Earth Day, on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair

