

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – May 27, 2025

The May 27, 2025 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force was called to order at 7:01 pm. Committee members in attendance were as follows:

Eliot Werner, Deputy Town Supervisor & CSC Task Force Representative (via Zoom)

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair

Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member

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

Introduction

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's meeting agenda, then asked members if there were any questions, additions, and/or changes to the minutes of the previous meeting of March 25, 2025. (The scheduled April 22, 2025 CSC Task Force meeting was not held due to sufficient lack of member availability.) With no objections raised, the minutes of the March 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. The on-site energy audit of the Town Highway facility was conducted on Monday, April 14, 2025 by a representative of L-S Energy of Albany, NY. The Town is anticipating being informed within the next several weeks thereafter regarding a report and recommendations for possible improvements in accordance with NYSERDA/Clean Energy Communities guidelines. 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 CEC recommendations identified by the energy audit. The CSC Task Force also discussed the possibility of applying for an additional NYSERDA grant, due by July 1, 2025, depending on needs and currently-available funds related to the Highway Department energy audit recommendations, as well as other projects that the Task Force might wish to pursue at this time.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Outreach

Joe Phelan and Barbara Mansell were scheduled for a follow-up meeting with Scott Kleinberg, the new Climate and Environment Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) to discuss and confirm details for possible 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. However, due to illness, the scheduled meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled to occur within the next several weeks.

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 and Eleanor Peck 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 had 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, with assistance from volunteers from the CSC Task Force to help out in completing the GOCAP prior to completion, and request for approval by the Clinton Town Board, leading to implementation of the adopted plan.

Future Planning

CSC Task Force members discussed participation on June 7, 2025 at Clinton Community Day. CSC Task Force members were asked to sign up to support the outreach at the Committee's table, in conjunction with members from the Town of Clinton CAC. It was suggested that information regarding the CSC Task Force's successful application for designation as a Bronze Climate Smart Community be made available for public outreach display. In addition, questionnaire topics, developed by Jean McAvoy, were discussed by CSC Task Force members for discussion with visitors to the CSC Task Force table at Clinton Community Day. CSC Task Force members have been and will be asked to step up to each volunteer for several hours to staff the table on June 7, 2025 at the Clinton Historical Society building on Salt Point Turnpike.

Before closing the meeting, Jim Metcalfe suggested that perhaps the Task Force might discuss and consider a public presentation on the topic of home composting, in lieu of a community and/or town composting program, that would provide interested residents with information on how to compost at home.

The next meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair