

## **TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 24, 2023**

The January 24, 2023 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:01 pm. This meeting was held at the Clinton Masonic Hall, in person, per current New York State and Town of Clinton protocols, with an option to attend by Zoom. Committee members in attendance were as follows:

In attendance:

Michael Whitton, Town Supervisor and CSC Coordinator

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair

Jack Persely, CSC Task Force Member

Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member

Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force (via Zoom)

Melissa Karchmer, CSC Task Force Member

### **Introduction**

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's meeting agenda and asked members if there were any questions or additions to the minutes of the previous meeting on November 29, 2022. With no questions or suggested additions, the minutes of the November 29, 2022 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance, as submitted.

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension Planning Support – Road-Stream Crossing Inventory and Management Plan; Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool Development**

Melissa Karchmer reported that the Road-Stream Crossing Inventory and Management Plan is still in the works, with the assistance of Cornell Cooperative Extension's Sean Carroll providing support to the Town of Clinton for this initiative. It is anticipated that the work will move forward when the weather is more conducive to this field work. The Town Highway Department is looking forward to the completion of this work, which will allow the Town to be eligible for funding via full reimbursement for culvert work undertaken as result. A 50/50 grant also may be available for additional culvert work, though not before May 2023.

Work on the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool Development initiative has been completed, with the assistance of CCE's Anna Harrod-McGrew. Ms. Harrod-McGrew presented the results of her work on this initiative to the Clinton Town Board at their January 10, 2023 meeting. Supervisor Whitton observed that there are several suggestions that the Town Board might want to review and consider as a result of this study, including emergency planning and related communication. Ms. Harrod-McGrew also has indicated her

willingness to review the Town of Clinton's Bronze certification application and make suggestions prior to submittal.

### **Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

Richard Marshall reported on the status of the monthly virtual meetings of the Hudson Valley Regional Council's Climate Smart Communities Cohort Program that he and Joe Phelan have been attending since September 2022. These meetings have provided guidance and support in completing the following Bronze certification indicator: **PE2: Inventory Emissions, Set Goals, and Plan or Climate Action** - Government Operations GHG Inventory – Develop a government operations GHG inventory (16 points; Priority & CSC Grant eligible)

Richard reported that this work, with assistance from HVRC's Melanie Patapis and CSC Task Force's Jack Persely, is nearly completed. Discussion took place about information that would be helpful to Richard in completing the Inventory's summary. The overall Municipal GHG Inventory report can be used to identify strategies to further reduce the Town of Clinton's Municipal Greenhouse Gas emissions in the future.

Upon completion of the Town's Municipal GHG Inventory, the HVRC will then conduct monthly meetings to provide support in addressing the development of a Municipal Climate Action Plan, starting at the end of January 2023, to address the following Bronze certification indicator: **PE2: Inventory Emissions, Set Goals, and Plan or Climate Action** - Government Operations Climate Action Plan – Develop a government operations climate plan (12-16 points; Priority & CSC Grant eligible).

To date, Richard Marshall has collected preliminary data to complete some required sections of a Town "Climate Action Plan" template, in collaboration with Jack Persely, as a follow-up to the Executive Summary that Michael had developed and placed in a Google folder earlier this year as a Google doc for feedback. The second set of HVRC monthly meetings to support the ongoing Climate Action Plan development effort will begin on January 31, 2023.

The CSC Task Force will continue to discuss and to plan, with the ongoing involvement of members of the Task Force, to address future actions from the list of potential actions already identified (see below). In addition, the CSC Task Force will need to continue to collect, verify, and submit supporting data for the completed actions. It appears, however, that the CSC Task Force may not be able to submit documentation for Bronze certification consideration in April 2023, as had been hoped, as the Municipal Climate Action Plan, one of the required "priority action" indicators, likely will not be completed until late Spring 2023.

### **Natural Resources Inventory**

Under Jack Persely's leadership, the Town of Clinton has submitted a successful request for a grant from the DEC/Hudson River Estuaries Program to partner with neighboring communities, in our case, with the Town of Washington and the Village of Millbrook to conduct and update a Natural Resources Inventory, for use in municipal planning. Jack, Jean McAvoy, and Margaret Pierpont have agreed to serve as the Town of Clinton's representatives for this NRI grant. The first meeting of this group was held on Monday, January 23, 2023.

### **Website Improvement**

Joe Phelan reported that, under the leadership of Al Bacon, Clinton CAC member, the Town of Clinton CAC continues to move forward with the development of its own website, with links to the Town of Clinton website and other related websites, as appropriate. Al intends to be able to present a template of the CAC website to the CAC, then to the CSC Task Force, in early 2023. As a subcommittee of the CAC, the Town of Clinton CSC Task Force's information will be included on the new Town of Clinton CAC/CSC Task Force website. Al has agreed to attend a meeting of the CSC Task Force as the CAC/CSC Task Force website is being developed to solicit feedback before completion, possibly in March 2023.

### **Green Fair 2023**

Possibilities for a Clinton Green Fair 2023 were discussed, including an idea to consider conducting it as part of the Clinton Community Days event, being planned again for Labor Day Weekend 2023. The idea was met with general enthusiasm and an agreement to pursue this idea further during the Spring, so as to provide sufficient time for planning.

The next meeting of the Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force