

# TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – Jan. 30, 2024

The January 30, 2024 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force (having been rescheduled from January 23, 2024 due to inclement winter weather and resulting hazardous travel conditions) was called to order at 7:00 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  
Jack Persely, CSC Task Force Member  
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member  
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member  
Anna Harrod-McGrew, Cornell Cooperative Extension, via Zoom

## 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 28, 2023. With no questions, the minutes of the November 28, 2023 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance. The minutes should note that the Task Force had agreed to cancel the December 26 Task Force meeting due to proximity to the holidays and the availability of sufficient numbers of members to attend. Joe also welcomed Eliot Werner, Town of Clinton Deputy Supervisor, as the 2024 Board-appointed representative to the CSC Task Force, and made the CSC Task Force members aware of the recently-approved Town of Clinton Workplace Violence Prevention Policy.

## Bronze Certification Review and Status Update

Again, much of the meeting's discussion centered around the timely topic of the assessment of the Town's Bronze Application status, as conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension's Anna Harrod-McGrew. Via Zoom, Anna responded to questions from CSC Task Force members regarding the collection of data and documentation to be submitted in the aggregate with all actions eligible for points to be considered toward approval of the CSC Task Force Bronze Certification application, with an anticipated submittal date on or before April 4, 2024. It was agreed that submitting documentation at this time via a Google doc rather than via the official template would be easier to assess prior to submitting using the template.

The following related topics were discussed:

- Status of the Government Operations Climate Action Plan, under Richard Marshall's leadership, in collaboration with the Hudson Valley Regional Council. A question about the availability of the Town Vehicle Fleet Inventory was raised, and the task is almost completed. An overview of a recent tour of the Town Garage, the largest source of the town's Greenhouse Gas Emissions was discussed, as well as the need for an assessment by an expert in doing so would be needed in order to write grant proposals to generate funding to complete actions to make the Highway Garage facility more energy efficient.
- Resources Inventory (NRI) - The Natural Resources Inventory for the Town of Clinton, a collaborative, grant funded effort with the Town of Washington and the Village of Millbrook, has been completed, with a presentation to the Town Board to be scheduled in early 2024. Jack Persely and Jean McAvoy updated the Task Force regarding the process.
- The Road-Stream Crossing Inventory and Management Plan was developed, and has been completed, in collaboration with the Clinton Highway Department and Cornell Cooperative

Extension. CCE's Sean Carroll presented the Plan to the Clinton Town Board at their December meeting. There was discussion among the CSC Task Force members as to whether or not the Town Board needs to approve/accept the Plan in order to generate points toward the Town's certification as a Bronze Certified Community. Anna Harrod McGrew will research an answer to that question. In addition, a copy of the complete plan, some 400 pages long, is on file at the Highway Department and soon will be on file in the CAC room at Town Hall.

- Climate Resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan – A County-wide plan under development by Dutchess County will assist the Town of Clinton in making this information available to residents. Anna has reached out to Fred Shequine, the Town's webmaster, in an effort to collaborate on posting available information regarding Disaster Preparedness information on the Town's website to fulfill the requirements of PE9.
- Climate Change Education and Engagement – This strategy will be met with the dissemination of information regarding resources provided to community members assisted inform, educate, and engage them on the topic of climate change.
- Social Media - This strategy will be assisted by the Town's communication resources and the CAC's new web page under development, as well as the posting of information on the Town's website.
- Questions about recycling bins in the Town offices was raised, researched, and confirmed by Richard Marshall.

The CSC Task Force will need to continue to collect, verify, and submit supporting data for the completed actions. Due to the anticipated completion date in late Dec 2023/early 2024 for the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), one of the "priority" actions required for Bronze Certification, currently being conducted through a Hudson River Estuaries/DEC grant, the CSC Task Force will not be able to submit documentation for Bronze certification consideration until Winter/Spring 2024, with a tentative deadline date of April 4, 2024.

### **Website Improvement**

With the process to submit documentation to NYSERDA for Bronze Certification and the Task Force's desire to meet the certification criterion providing for web site availability of the CAC's and Task Force's work, it was decided to post the necessary information as a link to the Town of Clinton's website. Efforts to make such information available via social media, while ongoing, have been satisfied with recent Town website postings.

### **Future Planning**

In addition to completing and submitting an application to NYSERDA for Bronze Certification, with assistance from Task Force members and CCE's Anna Harrod-McGrew, with a target date of April 4, 2024, the CSC Task Force will also pursue a Riparian Buffer Planning/Planting project later this year.

In addition, the Annual CAC and EMC Roundtable has been scheduled by Cornell Cooperative Extension for Thursday, February 29, from 6-8 pm, with advance registration requested. Clinton CAC's Barbara Mansell and Clinton CSC Task Force's Joe Phelan will make brief presentations, along leaders from other area municipalities, regarding their organizations' work during 2023.

By agreement of the Task Force members present, the next meeting of the Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair