

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – Oct. 24, 2023

The October 24, 2023 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:02 pm. Committee members and guests in attendance were as follows:

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair
Jack Persely, CSC Task Force Member
Elliot Werner, Clinton Town Board Member
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member, via Zoom
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member, via Zoom
Anna Harrod-McGrew, Cornell Cooperative Extension

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 September 26, 2023. With no questions, the minutes of the July 25, 2023 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance, with suggestions for several typo corrections made at the meeting's close.

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. Anna presented to our CSC Task Force and discussed her assessment with us at this meeting, as well as at several of ask Force's recent prior meetings.

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.
- Resources Inventory (NRI) - The Natural Resources Inventory for the Town of Clinton is a collaborative "work in progress," and is still slated for completion and presentation to the Town Board by early 2024. Jack Persely and Jean McAvoy updated the Task force on tht progress.
- Culverts & Dams – The Culverts and Dams Plan, is being developed by the Town of Clinton Highway Department, with the assistance of staff at Cornell Cooperative Extension, and is expected to be completed by Fall 2023. However, more specifics on that initiative were not available that evening.
- 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.
- Participation in training through Hudson Valley Regional Council to support a Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory was discussed, in particular the required Resolution for the Town Board to approve. While a Town Board commitment via Board action would be needed at some point before concluding this training, several members of the Task Force expressed skepticism about participation in this process due to the extrapolation of community-specific data for this task, as opposed to being able to collect resident-specific data, as well as questions regarding the accuracy of Central Hudson data, as would be required to complete this process. At this juncture, the practicality of undertaking a Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory is questionable, given feedback from the CSC Task Force, and needs to be resolved.
- Questions about recycling in the Town offices was raised, as was the status of Community Choice aggregation, remain as questions to be addressed.

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.

Due to time constraints, no action was taken regarding Jean McAvoy's prior suggestion that members of the Task Force divide the list of likely Bronze certification actions in order to share the task of verifying and collecting the necessary documents to be uploaded for submittal, although all in attendance at the July CSC Task Force meeting were supportive of this idea, and members were asked to give thought to areas for which they would be willing to take responsibility between now and Bronze certification submittal.

Website Improvement

Joe Phelan reported that there has been no update from the Clinton CAC regarding the development of the CAC/CSC Task Force website. Links to the Town of Clinton website and other related websites, as appropriate, are planned. The concept of arranging for the Town to make social media posts and/or distribute informational e-mails regarding CSC Task Force and CAC topics and events on a monthly basis.

The next meeting of the Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair