

# TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – Feb. 27, 2024

The February 27, 2024 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:01 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, via Zoom  
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member  
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 January 30, 2024. With no questions, the minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

## Bronze Certification Review and Status Update

Much of the meeting's discussion continued to focus on the timely topic of the assessment of the Town's Bronze Application status, as conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension's Anna Harrod-McGrew. 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.

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.

The following related topics were discussed:

- Natural 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. Eliot Werner will range for Carol Mackin to draft a resolution for the Board's consideration at the upcoming Town Board meeting on Tuesday, March 12. Attendance at that meeting by Jack Persely and Margaret Pierpont, who worked s a tam to develop the NRI, along with Jean McAvoy (who will not be available on March 12<sup>th</sup>) will be encouraged to provide support for approval for the resolution before the Town Board.
- 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 Change Education and Engagement – The strategy to generate points toward Bronze certification will be met through activities to include information regarding the CAC and the Climate Smart Communities Task Force on the Town website, as well as through a link to the newly-developed CAC/CSC Task Force web page developed by CAC member Jenn Brown. These activities will result in the dissemination of information regarding resources provided to community members to inform, educate, and engage them on the topic of climate change.
- 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, as outlined above. [Katherine](#) Mustello, Town Board member and representative to the CAC, will provide an update to the CAC and CSC Task Force regarding the status of the Town's Disaster Preparedness planning.
- 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 February 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 may not be ready to submit complete documentation for Bronze certification consideration until July 5, 2024, instead of the earlier desired deadline date of April 4, 2024, depending on the availability of the necessary documentation.

### **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. As stated above, Jenn Brown, a member of the Clinton CAC, has completed a webpage dedicated specifically to the CAC and CSC Task Force's work, which will be linked to the Town website.

### **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, either in early April 2024 (or in July 2024 if the April date cannot be met), the CSC Task Force will also pursue a Riparian Buffer Planning/Planting project during 2024.

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 with leaders from other area municipalities, regarding their organizations' work during 2023.

A question also was raised about the current composition of the CSC Task Force, some of whose members have not been participating in the Task Force's work for months or more. Joe Phelan agreed to reach out to these inactive members to ask them about interest in their continuing membership, with the possibility of recruiting community members who might want to serve in their place depending on their interest.

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~~[2024](#), 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