

## **TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

The February 28, 2023 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:04 pm. Due to weather concerns and the resulting closing of Town offices, this meeting was held virtually through attendance via Zoom. Committee members and guests 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

Melissa Karchmer, 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 24, 2023. With no questions or suggested additions, the minutes of the January 24, 2023 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 becomes 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.

With work on the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool Development initiative having been completed, with the assistance of CCE's Anna Harrod-McGrew, and the results presented to the Clinton Town Board at their January meeting, Ms. Harrod-McGrew and Supervisor Whitton discussed several suggestions for the Town Board to review and consider adoption. Emergency planning and related communication to the community were discussed, need to be developed, presented to the Town Board, and implemented.

Ms. Harrod-McGrew also has begun a review of the Town of Clinton’s actions to be included as part of the Bronze certification application, and will make suggestions prior to submittal regarding requirements met and potential points allocated.

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.

### **Municipal Climate Action Plan Development**

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 are continuing and are providing support to address the development of a Municipal Climate Action Plan, to meet 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 some preliminary data for the 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.

### **Natural Resources Inventory**

Under Jack Persely’s leadership, work has begun on the grant received from the DEC/Hudson River Estuaries Program, in partnership with the neighboring communities the Town of Clinton, the Town of Washington, and the Village of Millbrook to conduct and update a Natural Resources Inventory, for use in municipal planning. Completion date of this project is estimated at early 2024.

### **Website Improvement**

Joe Phelan reported that, the Town of Clinton CAC continues to move forward with the development of its own website, under the leadership of Alice Bacon, Clinton CAC member. Links to the Town of Clinton website and other related websites, as appropriate are planned.

Alice intends to have a template of the CAC/CSC Task Force website under development provided to the CAC, then to the CSC Task Force this winter, for possible completion, possibly in March 2023.

**Green Fair 2023**

Possibilities for a Clinton Green Fair 2023 were discussed again, including the idea to 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, March 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force