

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – MAY 30, 2023

The May 30, 2023 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:05 pm. Committee members and guests in attendance were as follows:

In attendance:

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair

Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member

Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member

Jack Persely, CSC Task Force Member

Elliot Werner, Clinton Town Board 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 April 25, 2023. With no questions or suggested additions, the minutes of the April 25, 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

There were no specific updates on the status of the work related to both of these initiatives, other than that they are ongoing.

Bronze Certification Review and Status Updat

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Anna Harrod-McGrew updated the Task Force regarding her ongoing review of the Town of Clinton's actions to be included as part of the Town of Clinton's Bronze certification application. She reviewed her detailed update on the current status of the process, prior to final submittal, regarding requirements met and potential points allocated.

Through the review process, Ms. Harrod-McGrew posed questions about related Town of Clinton activities and provided a number of suggestions for consideration prior to Bronze certification application submittal. A question was raised regarding the Town's municipal solar capacity, and the possibility of educational signage regarding that solar power.

Anna anticipated being able to conclude her review prior to the next CSC Task Force meeting on June 27. The CSC Task Force will continue to discuss and to plan, with the ongoing involvement of its members and Ms. Harrod-McGrew, 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. Due to the late 2023 anticipated completion date 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.

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, et 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, some preliminary data has been collected for the required sections of a Town “Climate Action Plan” template, as a follow-up to the Executive Summary that Michael Whitton 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 began on January 31, 2023 and is scheduled to conclude on June 15, 2023.

Related to the development of a Climate Action Plan for the Town of Clinton, information is still required regarding an inventory of the Town’s vehicle fleet. Questions also were raised as to whether or not the Town had conducted/completed a tree inventory

Natural Resources Inventory

Jack Persely provided an update on the NRI work currently being undertaken 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’s further development of a template for the CAC/CSC Task Force web page under development will require additional time, given her availability to work on this task.

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, June 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force