

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 27, 2023

The June 27, 2023 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:04 pm. Committee members and guests in attendance were as follows:

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member
Jack Persely, CSC Task Force Member
Melissa Karchmer, 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 May 30, 2023. With no questions or suggested additions, the minutes of the May 30, 2023 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance, as submitted.

Bronze Certification Review and Status Update

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

Through the review process, Ms. Harrod-McGrew it appears likely that if/when the Town is able to complete a number of Bronze certification items that already are being undertaken or for which additional data requires collection, the Town's Bronze certification process should have more than the minimum number of points required to achieve Bronze status. Those "In Progress" actions called out in the draft final review, totaling as many as 36 points are:

- Partnerships with Other Entities – should be satisfied by the collaboration with the Village of Millbrook and the Town of Washington on the collaborative grant-funded Natural Resources Inventory
- Government Operations Climate Action Plan – Richard Marshall has been working with the Hudson Valley Regional Council on the development of a Municipal Climate Action Plan for the Town of Clinton, after successful completion of a Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
- Solar Energy Installation – Jack Persely has begun some initial inquiries with Town of Clinton staff regarding the Town's solar installation data, and some educational signage will need to be installed and public information disseminated about the Town's municipal solar capacity.
- Recycling Bins in Government Buildings – Documentation of this initiative for the Town of Clinton's municipal buildings will need to be collected.
- Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) - The Natural Resources Inventory for the Town of Clinton is a collaborative "work in progress" and is slated for completion and presentation to the Town Board by early 2024.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

All of the above topics were discussed regarding updates and current status. In addition, Task Force members suggested:

- look into the County’s Walking and Biking Plan, which indicates the Town of Clinton as a participant;
- approach Pine Plains CSD as to their participation in the Safe Routes to School program;
- individual Task Force members take responsibility for following through on specific Bronze certification items needing further work.
- thoroughly read the entire Bronze certification final draft document before the next meeting.

It should be noted that Anna’s work on our behalf this year through Cornell Cooperative Extension has been a great help in our Town’s the effort to apply for and achieve Bronze certification. 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.

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 conduct 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, to include work on the NRI and a small number of resource presenters.

The next meeting of the Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force