

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – JULY 25, 2023

The July 25, 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:

- 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

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 June 27, 2023. With no questions or suggested additions, the minutes of the June 27, 2023 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance, as submitted.

Bronze Certification Review and Status Update

Much of the meeting's discussion centered around the assessment of the Town's Bronze conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension's Anna Harrod-McGrew, which she presented to and discussed with the Task Force at several of their 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 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.
- 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. A question was raised as to what commitment this Town Board action would require the Town to take, in terms of potential cost and feasibility, and the potential consequences if it was decided, after the resolution, the training, and the technical support from HVRC that a Community

Greenhouse Gas Inventory would not be practical for the Town to undertake. Joe Phelan will reach out to Melanie Patapis from the Hudson Valley Regional Council for a response.

- Questions about recycling in the Town offices was raised, as was the status of Community Choice aggregation.

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.

Jean McAvoy suggested that members of the Task Force divide the list of likely Bronze certification actions to share the task of verifying and collecting the necessary documents to be uploaded for submittal. All in attendance 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, 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

Jack Persely reported on the status of the Mini-Green Fair as part of the upcoming Clinton Community Days event, being planned again for the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend 2023. Jack has arranged for five tables, four for outside environmentally-focused presenters with whom he has made arrangements, and a 5th table for information on the current status of the NRI mapping. The CAC will also have a table at Clinton Community Days.

The next meeting of the Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. This is change from the previously scheduled August 22 meeting, due to conflicts with the chair’s schedule. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force