

Climate Smart/Clean Energy Community Task Force Minutes of the Tuesday Jan 9, 2024 Meeting Via Zoom

Attendance: Task Force members: Marie McRae, Jack Wright, Hunter Barlow Christina Dravis, Ray Burger, Joe Wilson, Mckenna Crocker, Anne Clark and Alice Green, Chair; Excused: John Kiefer. Staff: Dillon Shults; CCE Energy Coordinators Jerry Sheng (Climate Smart Communities) and Chris Skawski.

Call to Order at 5:02 pm

Introductions: Anne reported that she and the conservation have agreed that she will serve as their liaison with the CS/CEC Task Force

Approval of December Minutes moved by Ray, second by Marie. Unanimous with 7 members voting
Additions to the agenda: County EV Charging initiative

Climate Smart Community Actions Review

Dryden Climate Change and Resilience Plan (CCARP) and Workshop Preparation– Jerry, Alice
Presentation and discussion of the draft pla and timing for a scenario planning workshop. The draft was circulated about 2 weeks ago. Jerry reviewed the slide presentation for the Feb. 13 workshop. This is designed as by invitation to stakeholders, advisory boards, village elected officials, fire and emergency responders, and DHS sustainability club members. Participants will need to register to join online or in person in the Town Hall Courtroom. There can be additional presentations as the draft CCARP is developed.

Jerry ran through the draft slides for the overview presentation for the workshop and explained the structure for the work in the breakout groups to identify and prioritize pro-active responses to extreme weather events. Anne noted that she'll be out of the country for the February meeting. Ray said he thinks the presentation is impressive and the timing will work for the next Climate Smart meeting timeslot. Alice said the meeting will extended from 90 minutes to two hours, 5-7 pm. Dillon suggested that we might email materials to participants in advance of the workshop.
Volunteers to be facilitators: Facilitators: Jerry, Jack, Marie, Alice; Still need more volunteers to record and help report out small group findings. Anne suggested using whiteboards for the zoom groups.

Climate Smart Community Bronze Recertification

Some town actions that earned Dryden Bronze certification need to be renewed at different intervals, like the inventory of municipal vehicles and their fuel use. Christ explained that the Clean Energy Community program awards 600 points for completing these updates for recertification.

Clean Energy Community Actions Review

New CEC grants totaling \$175K for 7000 points. Pathways for Dryden to qualify. – Alice, Chris
The town has achieved 5300 points under the CEC program in the past 5 years, completing 15 different high impact actions that are incentivized by the state. Under the new CEC grant offering, communities that achieve 7000 points by September 30, 2024, can become eligible for a \$175K grant. The program structure has changed in two ways. Competition is now statewide; grants are not awarded by region. The grant amounts are reduced by \$50K after Sept. 30.

Chris presented a Dryden focused version of the NYSERDA calculator that he adopted from the Hudson Valley CEC region. The chart highlighted several actions that could bring the town beyond the 1700 additional points needed to earn the \$175K grant:

| <u>High Impact Action</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|--|---------------|
| Clean Heating and Cooling Demo (when DPW office upgrade is done) | 700 |
| Clean Heating/Cooling Community Campaign* | 700 |
| Climate Smart Bronze Recertification | 600 |
| Municipal Fleet Inventory update | 200 |
| Electrifying Municipal Landscaping equipment | 200 |
| <u>Total Potential Points</u> | 2400 |

Points are also offered for converting fossil fuel powered landscaping equipment to electric. Alice noted that if the town earned a \$10K grant for getting 10 heat pump installations, it might be used for electrifying equipment. If this resulted in a sufficient reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, it could yield 200 points.

Clean Heat and Cooling Campaign Take Two- Next Steps

A successful community campaign that documents installation of 10 heat pumps or heat pump hot water heaters since June 1, 2023, would also earn the town a \$10K action grant; another 15 installations would earn \$20K.

Jack offered to reach out to contractors that he works with as a CCE Energy Team member to document heat pump installations in Dryden. Chris will send Jack the NYSERDA documentation sheet. Zip code won't work to list addresses

Chris explained that credit for the installations will also depend on documenting the connection between the Town's promotion of the campaign and the resulting installations since June 1, 2023. The program expires at the end of 2025, but grant funds are limited. So, it's necessary to pull together all the PR pieces on energy issues since then and to create more media releases in the future.

Anne said that ANC installed their heat pump last June, so it can be counted. And they'd be willing to accept visitors interested in seeing how their unit is working. Another way of publicizing these kinds of "testimonials" from satisfied customers would be via a webinar that would present info about the program. And the CCE Tiny PowerHouse (which Jack coordinates) could be scheduled for a visit to Dryden, perhaps at June Dairy Day or the Dryden Farmers Market, to provide a concrete example of energy saving installations.

Christina volunteered to work with Cassie to create media releases about the campaign. Alice said there's a PR release from the Town's 2021 campaign and she asked Jack to send any newer CCE links, fliers or media pieces that could be adapted for the Dryden campaign.

Volunteers for the Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign: Jack, Marie, Anne, Christina, Alice.

DPW Office Building Upgrade Project Update- John

Efforts to obtain stamped drawings for sealing the building are still work in progress, 5 months after the town got NYSERDA grants approved. Alice reported that Dillon's suggestion to contact Civil Engineer Scott Freyberger looks promising. She will meet with him tomorrow to see if he can produce the documents needed for a town building permit and issuance of a request for proposals (RFP) to contractors.

Updates on other Town and Inter-municipal Efforts

DHS Student Report- Hunter

The Sustainability Club met today to discuss the possibility of installing a tiny forest project (Miyawaki) that Alice had sent information about. Now the Club is wondering about a site and funding for such a project. Alice suggested that the club could also consider a less expensive Pollinator Pathway project that's based on sourcing seeds rather than seedling plants. Marie noted that there are many gardeners around who might donate plants.

Affordable Housing Task Force –

Dillon reported that the AH task force is looking at funding sources to do upgrades on mobile homes inside of parks. Typically, funding is limited to owner occupied homes. They're interested in funding these and those that are rented.

They are also looking at the results of the wetland survey of acreage behind town hall. About 40 the 86 acres are designated wetlands. There's interest in getting various stakeholders together to talk about various ways to use the remaining acres. Ray said he believes the Town Board intends to turn over the process for determining use of the entire usable acreage to the DRYC. Recreation will be the primary user, and DRYC would initiate the process and will decide on the timing to include groups that are interested in affordable housing and/or a renewable energy installation on the town property.

Report on County Proposal for EV Charging Station Collaboration- Alice

EV Charging initiative. Alice met with Halley Delisle from the county sustainability planning office to learn more about their proposal to develop a county-wide RFP to EV Charging Station developers. The idea is providing an umbrella for installing at least 10 chargers in various municipalities. With a group approach, it's hoped a developer might be found to do the installations as a turnkey project. The county was initially looking for municipally controlled sites, but Alice asked if they would consider other sites like the library or a local business parking lot. There's been no answer back to date.

Adjournment at 6:39 pm

Respectfully submitted: Alice Walsh Green