

Climate Smart Committee –Action Task Force Meeting Minutes – 6/3/20

Present: Kevin Weldon, Vance Pitkin, Donal Collins, Deborah Conrad, Karla Kavanaugh, Tara Donadio, Angus Eaton, Melissa Pollack, John Cooley

Donal -Recap on meeting with county recycling department, attended by Donal, Abi Mesick, Joe Behn and Karla Kavanaugh. There are few products that our contracted hauler can resell - plastics 1,2,& 5. The market is limited, and might be changing even more due to current world conditions. It's been concluded that the best approach is a grassroots campaign to retail sellers requesting they pressure their suppliers to use recyclable or biodegradable packaging. Abi is looking to initiate such a campaign.

Angus-Recap of Comp Plan Survey questions regarding climate.environmental issues. They compiled a lot of questions, but now think they have too many, and in the wrong format. Angus will forward what he has to us for review.

Kevin- Update on Highway Department heating project. The Town has **finally** been paid the grant money promised a few years ago.

Angus - Scenic Hudson Solar Mapping Tool subgroup update. The tool allows us to identify land features and siting conflicts that will inform a zoning analysis of where utility scale solar projects could be best located within the Town. They are looking at sites for projects that fall in the 750kw-5megawatt range. For reference, it takes 5-10 acres per megawatt. This tool should be very helpful in identifying and categorizing prospective parcels, and should be a useful guide for landowners and interested solar companies. John asked how many locations have been identified; Angus replied that the group is not to that point yet - they're still learning how to use the tool and what it can do. Deborah and Angus will forward notes they took from the webinar they attended, which listed the criteria to consider when assessing land for utility solar projects.

Angus- Solarize Chatham update. Angus will present to the Town Board on 6/4. Will ask the Board to submit scoping documents to NYSERDA eventually, but maybe not at this meeting. Want to first be sure the Board fully understands the initiative and how it relates to solar utility companies seeking to supply the Town's residences and businesses. If the board agrees to support this initiative, the subgroup of our task force will begin promoting individual signups and possibly approach solar array companies in hopes of getting some utility scale solar projects built in Town.

Kevin - Summerfest is officially cancelled , and may be combined with Octoberfeast. We need to consider other outreach options. Will now focus on a social media campaign, and possibly a direct mailing to all residents.

Still haven't heard back from NYPA about a second presentation on streetlights now that the makeup of the Town Board has changed. Kevin will continue to pursue this. To recap - if NYPA handles it for us, they will finance, install, and handle all paperwork for us. It will require a financing commitment from the Town, but will be a net gain financially for the Town in the long run.

Tara - the NY State "Build Ready" program is changing its model so that renewables can be built on a faster schedule. The Department of State is now part of the program administration.

Kevin - Our EV charging station's retractable cord cracked over the cold winter and required repair. Chris Carmody from Ghent, who installed it for us, now works for PlugInStationsOnline, and was able to fix it for us for a fraction of the cost quoted by the manufacturer.

CDRPC is hosting a webinar 6/4 on EV charging stations and resources for installing and maintaining them, for anyone who wants to view it.

We've hit the 2 year anniversary of our EV station being on line. We now charge 28cents per kw for recharging. We and Ghent agreed to charge the same amounts since our stations are so close to each other. This amount is comparable to current gasoline refueling costs.

Tammy and Kevin are now the administrators for our EV station. Next month, Kevin will report on its usage.

Next meeting - online - scheduled for June 23, 6pm.