

TOWN OF CHATHAM – CSATF MEETING – MINUTES – 7-28-20

attendance- Kevin, Vance, Tara, Karla, Deborah, Angus, Melissa, Rick

Recycling Letter-

Comments regarding draft letter-

Vance- thinks the language should be softer.

Angus- is unsure who's the recipient, as it's very broad. Suggests we focus on the largest volume "polluters", IE: Wal-mart and Amazon.

Melissa – letter is intentionally vague, as we haven't yet defined our targets. Will hopefully serve as the base for a number of more focused letters, some to packaging manufacturers, some to retailers/restaurants. The hope is it can be a template for letters written and viral, and that this will propagate online via individuals as well as by municipalities like ours.

To hone in on what packaging is being thrown away most, Melissa asked if members of the group would be willing to keep a trash diary for a week. Written or digital, please record what packaging you throw out that is not recyclable. Karla and Deborah agree to participate. Once we have a clearer idea of what is generating the most waste, Melissa volunteered to set up another meeting with Jolene for suggestions on next steps.

Solar Mapping Project-

Angus- The last meeting with Scenic Hudson was the Beta Test. The goal was to produce a tool to aid municipalities when developing a solar siting law. It was useful, but since we have no law or draft law, and are starting over with the Comp Plan update, the information will sit until we do. Suggests the Town develop an interim Solar Siting law to protect us while the rest of the Comp Plan is worked on. Scenic Hudson will help us with that if we do. Says it's vital in order to protect us from a situation like the large solar farm going up in Claverack. It's controversial due to its size. If we want to have more control over the size and location of solar farms in Town, we should pass an interim siting law.

Tara- Was there a final report?

Angus – The tool is the final output, but a 40pg zoning guide did come out of it as well, and we will get a copy of it.

Kevin – Next steps for the Town?

Angus – The Board would have to be interested in passing an interim solar siting law for there to be a next step.

Deborah – This should be handled by lawyers with experience drafting solar laws, or it won't actually protect us.

Tara – NYSERDA now has an office of Solar Siting. They'll be able to offer support.

Street Light Program

NYPA re-worked the numbers for us, since the last proposal was 2 years old. They're waiting on buyout numbers from the two suppliers. Then they'll schedule to re-present the project to the current town board. They now offer a maintenance and repair service as an option.

Solarize Chatham-

Angus-Scoping proposal went to NYSERDA and was returned with questions. All committee members need to reply to Angus as to how they'll contribute. They won't approve our project until we complete the information to their satisfaction. We can still choose providers, but we can't promote the program or sign people up until NYSERDA is officially on board.

EV Charging Stations-

NYSERDA wants to collect data from the Town charging stations to share with other municipalities considering installing their own. The Town Board would need to pass a resolution allowing us to share the data.

Composting-

Rick Werwaiss- (the Town's rep on the EMC) A group called Zero Waste is looking to push for a composting program in Columbia County. Deborah and Karla will get in touch and report back.

EMC is attempting to get the entire county certified as a Climate Smart Community. Wants the Town Board to send an official letter of support to encourage the county to do so. Presented us with the draft letter. Wants us each to read and send feedback. After that, it'll go on the next Town Board agenda.

Conservation Advisory Committee-

The Town used to have one. Deirdre Henderson headed it. Not sure what happened to the group after she moved. Rick says we're one of the only Towns in the county without one. Urges us to create one. Kevin will ask Bob Balcom for some background and information.

Swap Shop-

Karla – can it be a question on the Comp Plan survey questionnaire?

Kevin – The Comp Plan Committee is on hiatus, but we can send the questions to the right parties.

Stretch Code –

Karla- will contact Mike DeWine to see if he'll present to us so we can be more well versed in this new code.

Next Meeting Aug 25, 6pm.

