

## Notes from the 8/31/21 Meeting

Attending: Charlotte Harris, Brian Lange, Janine Kourakos, Katherine Daniels, Nina Eisenman, Chris Brockmeyer, John Roach, Nzingha Milanes, Edris Scherer, Holly Thomson, Mike Milanes, Amy Rosmarin, Jocko McKean

Minutes of the July meeting were approved with a motion from Katherine and a second from Janine.

Brian Lange, a new member of the School Board of Ed, joined the meeting and will be working on forming a similar committee within the NSCSD. The plan is to coordinate our efforts.

Katherine asked for input on the logo which was a result of the sub-committee of Nina, Pam, Katherine and Janine who worked with Roe Intrieri. A big thank you to Roe for her beautiful design. Chris asked what the circles represent? Katherine explained it represents all our focus areas; she asked if there were any questions or concerns; hearing no negative reactions, consider it adopted and it will be used at the NSOLF's Race for Open Space. This committee will have a table at the race on race day.

Nina was invited to talk about the educational opportunity and the lightbulb swap and shared the promo piece that will be given out at the Race and informs the community about the upcoming swap on Oct 16 when the public can come and pick up light bulbs for free; our goal is to have 200 6 packs that day and this could save 1.5 million kw of electricity if all are given out and used in place of incandescent bulbs; someone from SustainableWestchester will also be available that day; NYSEG may be donating some of the bulbs. Katherine mentioned that October is Energy Awareness Month so it is a good time to do this. Amy asked if the bulbs are dimmable lights and Nina said she will try to get some that are dimmable.

The Community Solar Program is another way we are getting off the ground: working closely with Sustainable Westchester. This is separate from the riding ring initiative. It is an option for those who don't have the right roof, or the funds to install solar on their homes. It allows people to purchase some of their electric energy from solar farms. Janine expanded on this to inform us that if involved one gets a 10% rebate on their electric bill. If we can get ten more people or businesses sign up we are eligible for another \$5000 grant but this needs to happen quickly if possible before the grant money is depleted.

-Nina asked about when she signed up through a Brewster link, her understanding was there are a limited number of "seats" and asked if there are new projects coming out. Apparently more are coming out and there will be others. Are they comparable costs related to different providers?

-Amy volunteered that most of the energy for Sustainable Westchester's Community Choice Aggregation Program (which North Salem is part of) is diverted from hydropower and this may not be so great for the environment. We should we be choosing programs that only offset carbon producing sources with renewables.

-Holly asked if anybody uses Delaware River Solar: Katherine will check on this. Katherine's solar farm provider is Lodestar. She now makes a monthly payment directly to Lodestar and a monthly payment to NYSEG. She still gets mailings from all sorts of vendors out there so people need to be careful to know who they are dealing with. SustainableWestchester does seem to be vetting solar providers who participate in their program. Katherine suggests we continue with the Community Solar program as we will be promoting this at these next two upcoming events.

Solar Power for Horse Farms update: Indoor rings are a unique opportunity and there is at least one farm that has installed solar and the whole operation is powered as well as two other structures that are powered and energy still goes back to the grid; there is some clear interest; Old Salem has agreed to host an informational session for horse farm owners. David Sandbank from NYSEDA will be sending a list of solar installers that will come and talk about specifics such as costs, etc. We need to get a few dates to get the parties together. Thanks to Charlotte and Peter K. for securing the venue. Charlotte thinks there are at least 3 or 4 horse farms that are interested.

- One question has been raised (Chris) as to what is done with the excess energy produced and to overbuild as he put it and is it fair to say if you don't use it you lose it?
- What is the line between producing too much and turning a site into a commercial operation?
- Can we be more inclusive and invite regular homeowners?
- Katherine asked Brian about how suitable school buildings and parking lots are for this type of installation asked him to be exploring this more broadly
- Katherine will ask David Sandbank to come and give us more information at a future meeting

#### Subcommittee Reports:

GHG : Michael Milanes presented a PowerPoint outlining the work he did to inventory the Town's GHG emissions associated with Town buildings and vehicles. The Committee thanked Michael for his excellent work on this project.

- Sept 15 is the date for the Town Board to vote on NYStretch or a public hearing that is and the law may be adopted or not following the public hearing as it has turns out to not be a controversial issue

Transportation Committee - Katherine asked everyone to read the 684 Corridor Study

Clean Energy- no report submitted

Land Air Water- will be moving forward with subcommittee work on the appropriateness of what Bedford has already put in in their published plan

Food Practices - committee has been busy with important other business of the committee at large; Katherine mentioned to make sure to work with other town organizations such as the historical society.

Legislation- no new report

Grants:

- Have received the 5K from NYSEERDA; some will be used for the light bulb swap and Solar Power for Horse Farm events and half to support the NSOLF grant submission.
- More anticipated from adoption of NYStretch and Community Solar.
- New potential project will need funding - the salt shed roof is complete so think about sources of funding solar install there to power the highway garage.

Katherine asked for comments on the draft questions for the Town Wide Survey this fall. She will finalize the questions and send them to Cynthia by the next meeting.

Timeline: still shooting for December draft of our report

Ideas for Community programs:

Community solar (in progress)

b. LED light bulb swap (in progress)

c. Recycling

d. Composting

e. EV vehicle show

f. EV charging stations

g. Carbon sequestration

h. Geothermal heating/cooling- see podcast re installation at cathedral through Sus West (add link to minutes)

i. Pollinator Pathway – Environmentally friendly gardening

Add Invasive species management/removal and planting natives?

j. Reading group- Edris mentioned this to the library and they are interested in a winter program along these lines

k. List Other-

-solar for other than horse farms should be a separate program it was decided

Next meeting is Sept 21

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM