



Climate Smart Committee meeting 11/16/21

Present: Janine Kourakos, Robin Albin, Holly Thomson, Peter McCartt, Jocko McKean, Nina Eisenman, Amy Rosmarin, Lauren Rosasco, Nzingha Milanes, Michael Milanes Jr. , Emily Simoness, Chris Brockmeyer, Katherine Daniels, Rick O'Leary, Kurt Guldan, Edris Scherer, Phineas Keenan, Janet Olshansky

Introduced Peter McCartt from the County Executive office. County is encouraging municipalities to adopt resolutions about Climate Emergency. Goal to make committee recommendation to the town board

He's Director of Energy Conservation & Sustainability for the County: Climate Crisis Resolution. = opportunity to make a statement. If we can pass it, it has power. Couldn't pass it in his town, Eastchester.

No funding comes out of this resolution. There is funding for being a Climate Smart Committee. Our committee will make recommendations to the town board to adopt.

Are there legal implications to this resolution? There are none. It is a declaration, a statement of importance to North Salem. Nothing you're beholden to with this resolution. You're making a statement to residents and to the employees of the town.

Created Climate Task Force 3 years ago. It's time to make a bolder statement.

Pinpoints what County has done and what it wants to do.

Question asked: What resources are available for towns like ours for adaptation to climate coming to impact us: Thru our climate smart committee and clean energy committee we can get some funding. There is real money through these 2 committees/communities. There are awards of up to \$50k. They are awards and not grants so not competing against other communities.

Hazard mitigation. How does that fit into climate smart committees and clean energy? Any suggestions? Climate Action plan is where you bring in resiliency and hazard mitigation. They have a good planning group to help, particularly with flooding issues.

We will share our resolution and our plan with him. He emphasized that our plan needs to have both resilience and adaptation & an implementation plan.

He's impressed that we're doing this. He was a founding board member of Sustainable Westchester.

Minutes approved for both September and October meetings with no corrections.

Winwaste field trip is Friday, December 3rd at 10:30am. Carpool from Townhall. If interested in attending contact Janine. Will leave at 9:30 at TownHall. Wear sturdy toed shoes -- boots. They will give us hard hats and vests.

Trenton video about using food waste to power/generate electricity. Rick sent that video to all of us. Very worthwhile to watch.

LED lightbulb swap. Still have leftover bulbs. Gave out 15 bags of bulbs at senior meeting too. Very positive. If you have meetings where you'll see other residents, reach out to Katherine & take some bulbs. Need to explain how such a small thing has a huge impact.

Community Solar: have 8 people that signed up. Need 2 more to be eligible for money. Is one of those things that make a difference. Holly mentioned this at the meeting last night and Andrea Goode is talking about it at St James.

It takes 2 months to get into the system if you've signed up to be up and running.

Sustainable Westchester is quite clear that you can terminate within 60 days so there is an out if you change your mind.

Good article in North Salem news about Community Solar. Hopefully that will increase the number of people signing up.

Community Choice Aggregation. Eligo program is ending because of unfavorable rates. So Eligo won't be the supplier in town, we're being bumped back to NYSEG temporarily until February. We are being switched back and should get a letter in the mail. There will be an article in the newspaper.

The switch letters went out with billing in November so whenever the last bill was in November we got a drop letter from Eligo.

Community Solar is different from Community Choice Aggregation, CCA was what the town joined as it gave the town better bargaining power to force better rates for cleaner energy.

The implication is that it's another blip in your bill so can't tell if you're saving money == putting things in flux. Bad timing but it is what it is.

Solar Power for Horse Farms: very successful per Katherine. At Old Salem Farm. There were 15/20 people there. Learned a lot of what we can and can't do. A number of horse farms have reached out to Solar Farms to generate their own electricity and putting it back in the grid. Katherine thinks there will be 4 or 5 who sign up.

We should do solar for residences too. SunPower did most of the work. Let Katherine know if you're interested in being involved. Chris volunteered to be involved with that one for solar in residences.

Will there be follow-up with new people moving into town with people who bought horse farms? Yes, Charlotte is following up with people who came to the meeting and will with new farm owners. Janine suggested we have a one pager for new residents on climate action, things you can do. Warren already sends out info to new residents but hopes we can add this to the welcome packet. Decision: this is a good idea.

Electrifying our fleet: are we looking at solar power being the source of the recharging? Katherine will look into this.

What is the minimal amount of solar power to charge a car? Can we find that out for people? How much space do you need to charge a car. Suggested that you ask Tesla since they make panels and cars. Amy will take this on this question.

Solar panels for town: very serious about putting solar panels on Salt Shed. Katherine talking to Croton Falls Fire Dept about this. Kurt was interested in doing this. Kurt: if we're going to do this in town we need to put signage on property that they are using solar so that ambulance and fire dept know this = need to change the code to have that notification. Katherine will raise this with Cynthia Curtis as the fire dept needs special training to work with solar powered homes.

There are systems that will tell fire dept who has solar at a home but those systems are expensive. Chris will talk to Cynthia about it. Need signage that is easy to see.

Comment: Residences are putting in LED lights that are really bright. Rick suggested we have a limit on brightness. Need to regulate color and light. Chris: there was a discussion on light and color in planning board. Still under discussion by the town.

What's the issue with the town of signage? Signage is a huge issue in town. Want to limit signage. Maybe it could be like an ADT sign. Chris will bring this to the planning board.

Schoolhouse in Croton Falls: Closing is this Friday. Building needs work in terms of making it more efficient. Roof, HVAC. We will figure it out. It's a project. May need to be geothermal as it has a slate roof. From recreation standpoint: it's a great opportunity to use things for educational goals of the committee. Can hold seminars for kids and for seniors = a good opportunity for the community.

Add the schoolhouse to our building list so we track it too.

Rough Draft of the Climate Action Plan: let's talk about process. Send your thoughts, comments or corrections to Katherine. Want to take on impact sections that would be great. In particular, need stuff on "air". Keep information in google format so you can add info on the side. -- will stay in google docs so all can comment. Will put it up so that it's "suggested edits" that have to be approved or denied by Katherine.

Consensus was that this Climate Action Plan was a good start.

Under Transportation want to put in support for amendment to achieve zero admissions from medium and large trucks by 2045. NY and NJ following CA's lead and doing this as a rule, an amendment to rules governing conservation law.

Question: what about horse trailers and trucks coming into Old Salem Farm. This rule would apply to trucks like this. They would need to be electric by 2045. They are a major source of pollution in our town.

We should consider ways to measure methane produced in our town & put that in our plan & figure out how to sequester it or mitigate it.

We should include a Section on adaptation and resiliency? What will be our material issues in the future? What will be our issues in 15/20 years so we can plan on that. Warren has done such a plan. Katherine will send that around so we can pull out of it what we can. Cross reference with Warren's plan. Important to cross reference with his plan.

Update on GHD: Will be mid-December when report is ready by Nina.

Several big steps from the meeting. Very excited that Coal was mentioned and countries are committed to reducing methane. A lot more needs to be done about carbon emission.

Committees should be working on their plans but use Katherine's draft to add sections and make revisions in there.

Grants, have gotten some commitments that are reflected in the draft plan. We have about \$360 left of the first \$5,000 grant. Should get the other grants shortly. Janine has created a spreadsheet of our expenses. We will see what the funds are and what we've used. Town has to approve the expenditures for the committee -- proper process per our town attorney.

Janine will share the spreadsheet.

Any updates from school: Has the school's version of this committee met? Janine and Katherine are to be invited to the school's meeting so we can stay in sync as we have the same goals.