



Climate Smart Communities

MINUTES
CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
October 16, 2019, 7:00 PM

Attendees: Greg Vogler, Tim Stalker, Jere Wrightsman, Chris Schober, Maureen Wilson, Paige Ruane

Tara Donadio from the CDRPC

1. Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2019 meeting

All agreed the minutes were accurate. All approved.

2. Status of Key Initiatives – Brief Updates

- a. NYSERDA Grant – Greg reported that the Town has been awarded \$35,000. Notice of the grant award was received last Thursday, and a formal contract with NYSERDA is now being negotiated.
- b. LED Street Lighting – Chris to reach out to Nyseg on status.
- c. Town Buildings/Parks LED Lights Replacement – Chris and Cara

Cara is travelling so we will discuss this topic at next month's meeting.

- d. Benchmarking – Jere has today entered the town highway garage into the EnergyStar benchmarking system. Need one year of electrical and fuel bills. Next up is the new town hall.
- e. Education and Awareness – Maureen discussed heat pump systems.
- f. Charging Station: Greg reported that last quarter (Q3, 2019) saw a 50% increase in usage over the previous quarter.

3. Group Discussion: Community Choice Aggregation, Tara Donadio

Tara Donadio, a representative from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission attended our meeting and discussed Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). A CCA, if adopted by a town, becomes the sole supplier of green sourced electricity (hydro, wind, solar), although residents have the ability to opt-out. Salient points discussed included:

- CCA has begun to be implemented in several areas in the Capital District. The Village of Kinderhook is interested in joining.
- Potential benefits for a town to join the CCA include lower cost of electricity (the supply portion of your electricity bill) and knowing and helping the sourcing of electricity from green sources versus carbon burning sources.
- Potential risks include the reaction of town residents to having the town board choose who their electricity supplier is, even if it is less costly than their current supplier. A resident would need to pro-actively opt-out which could be done via phone call.

4. CPOC – Tim

No update

5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 7:00 pm.

