



Climate Smart Communities

MINUTES CLIMATE COMMITTEE October 20, 2021

Attendees: Greg Vogler, Paige Ruane, Cara Humphrey, Tim Stalker, Chris Schober, Jere Wrightsman, Maureen Wilson, and Jill Henck and Haley Balcanoff from the CDRPC

1. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2021, meeting

There were no comments or changes; minutes are approved.

2. Climate Smart Community
 - a. Task Force Coordinator. Paige reported on the submission to a grantor for additional funding to hire a Coordinator for a year. The request is still outstanding although the submission of the request was only a few weeks ago.
 - b. Bronze certification efforts. Greg is working with Jill and Haley from the CDRPC to resubmit the submissions the DEC rejected. They must be resubmitted by the first week of January 2022. Greg has completed a revised Community Engagement document, while Chris is working on a revised Riparian plan, and Jill and Haley are working on a revised GHG submission.
3. Other Featured Discussions:
 - a. Community Solar. Cara reported that she will setup a time with Greg to discuss launch, probably sometime in November. Due to Covid, the launch will be mostly virtual with in person events next year.
 - b. Website... <https://austerlitzclimateaction.org>. The website is live. Please share. Next step is for a meeting to discuss Communication Sub-committee (monitoring and growth), Change Committee (what changes to make), Admin and Fees
 - c. Repair Café. The Repair Café, a joint effort with several other towns including Austerlitz, is on for this Saturday, October 23 from 10-4 at the New Lebanon Firehouse. Cara Humphrey did a fantastic job in a radio interview with WAMC; it's at <https://www.wamc.org/podcast/the-roundtable/2021-10-19/repair-cafe->

[in-new-lebanon-new-york-on-10-23](#). The next Repair Café is tentatively planned for Austerlitz.

- d. CEO Training. Erin Reis, the Austerlitz CEO is signed up for October 26.
 - e. Benchmarking, Energy Star Portfolio Manager... need to update?
 - f. Recycling... Greenport. Maureen reported that this would be a spring initiative due to Covid and winter.
 - g. CPOC questionnaire. Tim discussed the recently completed town wide survey conducted by CPOC about climate and aging.
4. Other (quick updates):
- a. EMC. Cara stated that the county CSC Task Force is planning a county wide community solar and is working on some other efforts like a county GHG inventory. The county CSC Task Force held a meeting with town climate committees. The county is planning on a pilot composting program.
 - b. Facebook. Posting about the new website was included.
 - c. Emails. There have been a few from people submitting their emails into the new climate website. Other emails have all been positive with congratulations regarding the new website.
 - d. Other: County Planning Board discussed turning farming land into commercial solar fields. More to come....
5. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 7:00 pm. As always, the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Please mark your calendar.