

**Austerlitz Climate Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 27, 2022**



Present

Kathryn Beilke
Haley Balcanoff
Jere Wrightsman
Cara Humphrey
Tim Stalker
Paige Ruane
Jennifer Thompson

Minutes

- Approved minutes from August 17th Climate Committee meeting (consensus)
- Approved proposal to Town Board of riparian restoration project and associated costs should ERG Grant not come through (consensus)
 - KB will confirm our interest with Dave Newman, pending Town Board approval
- Approved proposal to request use of Austerlitz Town Hall on October 9th (@ 4pm) for NYSERDA community clean heating and cooling launch event in partnership with RYCOR (in lieu of documentary already planned) (consensus)
 - August 23rd was date on which new home energy updates (such as solar, heat pumps, weatherization) can count toward a grant for the town, as part of the community clean heating and cooling campaign
- Approved that JW will review and bring resolution to participate in Climate Adaptation Planning to Oct town board meeting (consensus)
- Approved proposing memo from Rob about recycling bins in government buildings for CSC submission (consensus)
 - Was noted that CSC submissions for repair cafes was outstanding, Kathryn will work with Cara to get all relevant information
- KB will revise the PCAHV ERG application per discussion and share it with committee for feedback
- CH will look over press release and send thoughts to KB
- KB will go to the next Town Board meeting to review her presentation in more detail
 - Review of presentation at last meeting was rushed and KB was unable to be there

Process Notes

- For the Oct 9th meeting could someone talk about the benefits of town hall heat pumps?
 - HB will share other updates that count besides solar & heat pumps— weatherization etc.
 - HB will share presentation to offer residents
 - Fact sheet of basic facts for NYers would be great to offer.
 - Once HB sends her presentation we can put it in a printable form to hand out

- If not included in HB's presentation, other things to consider in the handout
 - What is NYSEGA
 - What is the rebate they offer?
 - Contractor's names
 - Weatherization, insulation, anything home focused
- KB went to a presentation about the countywide Climate Adaptation Plan
 - Austerlitz can participate at no cost
 - Heavy lift in terms of work but very useful
 - HB: County is doing it at the county level, CCE is doing it on behalf of munis.
 - This is an opportunity for towns to piggyback on county efforts
 - It can inform the Comp Plan
- Documentation for CSC points:
 - CH will send KB photos & list of needs need to document Repair Cafe to obtain CSC points
 - Other things to resubmit
 - at least 2 meeting minutes
 - recent social media
- Discussed alternate locations for the recycling
 - The church? (Always open)
 - To further develop this in subcommittee
 - TS: Encouraged KB to approach Peter at the highway garage about this
 - CH: Suggested a joint venture with Chatham Co-op
 - Or other CSC Task Forces?
 - KB will talk to CS about creating a small shed to house recycling containers
 - Could sit behind the Town Hall
- Ideas about how to engage?
 - Flier for the Austerlitz Dems event
 - New Lebanon has been successful at recruiting volunteers
 - Many willing, social retirees
 - Ancram too
 - Haley can introduce KB to those towns
 - PR shared two video sessions with tips for how to best engage
 - [Tools for Engaging Your Team](#)
 - [Tools for Engaging your Community](#)
 - Holiday Repair Cafe in tandem with the church bazaar
 - Need volunteers to give up 4 hours of their day
 - At least 6-8 people
 - JW: One guy from the church would be into it and Chris Schober would be good at it
 - Let's have a call to discuss, since it's 2 months away (KB & CH)
 - Can bring Bruce, Carla etc into convo later but will hammer out our shortlist first

Next Climate Committee meeting is **Wednesday, October 19th at 7pm, Town Hall**
Town Board Meeting is **Thursday, October 20th 7pm, Town Hall**

To Do

JW

- Review and propose written plan to participate in Climate Adaptation Planning to board
- Propose recycling memo to Rob (now or when plans have been revised?)

KB

- Confirm interest w/Dave Newman
- Revise the PCAHV ERG application per discussion and share it with committee for feedback
- Lead recycling subcommittee
- Call w/KB to discuss December Repair Cafe

HB

- Share other updates that count besides solar & heat pumps– weatherization etc.
- Share presentation (to offer residents at heating & cooling campaign launch)
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CH

- Provide feedback on press release to KB
- Send KB photos & list of needs need to document Repair Cafe
- Call w/KB to discuss December Repair Cafe