



New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force

Meeting Minutes: July 19, 2021

Attendees: Janelle Peotter, Mark Varian, Jim O'Dowd, Wendy Rudder, Orelle Feher, Amanda Gotto, Alexandria Wojcik, Megan Wolff

CCA: Amanda received a letter from Direct Energy, former energy supplier for Hudson Valley Community Power. The letter is apparently a requirement of the PSC for an annual accounting of the sources of energy provided by every ESCO operating in New York. While the ESCO is required to send this notice out to every customer, the Direct Energy letter lists all sources of energy, not just the renewable energy sources it supplies to CCAs. The concern of our task force is the confusion this letter will cause those in New Paltz who may feel that Direct Energy may not have lived up to their expectations. Perhaps Joule should have done a better job of preparing us for this letter. Mark suggested we contact other towns that belong to the CCA to get their input.

Danskammer: The DEC comment period for the Danskammer air permit ends on August 29. Amanda offered to compose a letter that the NPC's task force will submit. In order for the power plant project to proceed, DEC must issue the permit. Environmental groups contend that the project does not comply with the CLCPA and should not be approved.

Single-use Plastics: Wendy spoke with a member of Woodland Pond's sustainability committee about single-use plastics at the dining facility. Covid has been a real concern. They will continue to speak. We discussed the promotion of the **Tiffin Project**. We decided to name it The New Paltz Tiffin Project. Wendy was able to use her tiffin containers at a local Indian Restaurant. But the owner wasn't interested in storing them on premises. Perhaps we could focus on one restaurant to help us get the program started – The Commissary, Main Course or Mountain Brauhaus. Orelle expressed concerns about the capacity of some restaurants to clean the tiffin products. Amanda suggested we contact restaurants that have used Tiffin. Meggan has dealt with a company called Deliver Zero. But they use plastic containers. Janelle said she would reach out to groups in other countries for their input. Orelle mentioned that a city in California uses the Tiffin process. She will follow up with Holly.

Next Meetings: Janelle asked if we should consider meeting in person in the near future. We agreed to try to meet at her home on her deck, weather permitting. Folks will also be able to attend through ZOOM.

Action Group Updates:

- **6 Rs – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Repair, Recycle:** Megan is still working on textile recycling. A discussion followed about finding drop-off locations for **Helpsy**. Janelle inquired about Climate Smart Points for Repair Café. Mark suggested using a template based on Gardiner's bronze certification submission if it is approved.
- **Green Business:** No updates.

- **Green Spaces:** Plants are growing well in the new pollinator garden at the Community Center. Compost bins are being used. So bring your compost and pull some weeds!
- **Green Transportation:** Janelle pointed out that September 25 thru October 3 is National Electric Car Week. Shall we have another parade? This one could include a new hybrid police car! Janelle said she would contact Samrat.
- **Publicity & Social Media:** The August newsletter will be going out at the end of July. Submit articles by July 26.
- **Youth:** No update.
- **Alternative Energy:** No update on the solar array at the landfill.
- **Lifestyle:** August's **Climate Solution Meetup** will be hosted by The Green Team, four local vendors for products that help homeowners conserve energy and shrink their carbon footprint. New York State Solar Farm, Rycor, Foamco and New Beginnings Window and Door will present a live program at Rycor's building on North Chestnut St. at 6:00 PM. A ZOOM link will be available for those who will not be able to attend in person. September's meetup will deal with fashion.
- **July's Climate Smart Book Club** meets tomorrow at 7:00 PM. The featured book is ***Good Husbandry***, by Kristin Kimball, Dan and Ann Guenther's daughter in law. August's selection is ***Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*** by Barbara Kingsolver & family.

The next **Climate Smart Task Force** meeting is Monday, August 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mark Varian