



New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force

Meeting Minutes: January 10, 2023

Attendees: Janelle Peotter, Mark Varian, Joe Londa, Alexandria Wojcik, Orelle Feher

CCA: Mark mentioned that Jeff Domanski, representing Joule Assets, is beginning community outreach for another round of energy provider bids. He is presenting to the Gardiner Town Board tonight. Alex said that Jeff will be presenting to the New Paltz Village Board tomorrow. The plan is to go out to bid in the spring with the possibility of the Community Choice Aggregation going back online with a new energy provider in early summer. More clarification is needed before the communities make the choice to go forward with the successful bidder.

Climate Action Plan: LULA (Land Use Law Center) has submitted a draft of the document summarizing the outreach work it coordinated for the New Paltz Climate Action Plan. The Task Force discussed next steps. Town and Village municipal involvement is critical. Very specific goals in line with those outlined in the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory must be established. Means and methods to reach those goals must also be determined. Such tasks cannot be created in a vacuum. Town and Village government input and assistance will be needed. Janelle and Joe will meet with the Supervisor and Mayor to ask for their support. Mark will help put together pertinent material.

Birds & Bees Protection Act: The January Climate Solution Meetup featured a presentation from representatives of the Natural Resource Defense Council on the NY State bill that will rein in the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. A letter that has been signed by numerous environmental groups will be sent to New York's governor and legislators asking them to pass the bill. The task force agreed to sign on to the letter.

Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign: Janelle has reached out to the Village and Town for assistance in filling out the scoping application to take part in the campaign. She said she was told that the Village had referred it to the Village's attorney. Alex said she would look into this. The Town has not responded. Since there are just a few grants left, there is an urgency to getting these forms completed and sent in to NYSERDA.

Sustainable Hudson Group Purchasing Program: Ben Ekstein has sent us an invitation to the Clean Power Guide Launch Event, which will kick off the group purchasing program, on January 19th, at the Fuller Building in Kingston, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The sign up link is:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ask-the-energy-coaches-anything-tickets-463799896977?lang=en-us&locale=en_US&status=30&internal_ref=social&view=listing

Battery Energy Storage: Joe reported that as of a meeting of the Battery Energy Storage Task Force earlier today the final drafts of a new battery storage permit and law are complete. They will be submitted to

the Mayor and Supervisor to have the Town Code Enforcement Officer make final edits. Mark will check the new State Climate Council's Scoping Plan for battery storage programs going forward.

Climate Smart Schools: Jeff Domanski offered to put together a Doodle sheet to send to Climate Smart Schools Task Force members in order to set up a meeting in January.

Action Groups:

- **7Rs - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Repair, Recycle....Refill:** The next New Paltz Repair Café is on January 21.
- **Green Spaces:** The grant application is in. We're waiting for a response We need a new project!
- **Green Business:** Second Nature Refillery is open. You can buy a tiffin as well as grains, eggs, veggies and household items.
- **Green Transportation:** Clean Streets has been on the back burner. Janelle will introduce a plan by the committee to get things moving. Orelle mentioned that it might be worth contacting the organizers of **The Ride For Mental Health** to help them with sustainability tips for their event next summer. Mark suggested there might be some natural connection through the interest in bicycle transportation.
- **Publicity & Social Media:** The February Newsletter will go out by the end of the month. Please submit articles before the last week in January.
- **Youth:** Still looking for a liaison.
- **Alternative Energy:** See **Battery Energy Storage** above.
- **Lifestyle:** The next Climate Solutions Meetup will be on Feb. 7, 2023, at 6:00 PM. The topic will be **Get Charged Up About Batteries**. December's Climate Smart Book Club selection is: **Dark Money** by Jane Mayer. The Book Club meeting will be held on Jan. 17, at 7:00 PM. February's book will be **Electrify: An Optimist's Playbook for Our Clean Energy Future**, by Saul Griffith.

Mark mentioned that this April's Earth Day Celebration will mark the 20th anniversary of the event sponsored by Interfaith Earth Action and New Paltz Climate Action Coalition. The organizers are reaching out to all environmental groups in the New Paltz area to participate in the mostly outdoor program. The date has not been established, but it is hoped that several organizations will not only table during the event but also provide active demonstrations of one of their current projects. There is also interest in having Greenway provide environmental services and perhaps demonstrate its composting processes. More to come.

Minutes submitted by Mark Varian