**New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force**

**Meeting Minutes: 19 August, 2019**

**Attendees:** Janelle Peotter (by phone), Mark Varian, Wendy Rudder, Orelle Feher, Jim O’Dowd

**CCA Status Report:** TheDepartment of Public Service rejected the first submission by Joule for approval of the NP CCA. We will have to provide more outreach sessions to both the village and town. Joule scheduled a public meeting for tomorrow, 8/20, at the community center. There will be another public meeting on 9/12, at the community center, with a focus on bringing community leaders up to speed with the benefits of CCA and the campaign to sign up solar farm subscriptions.

**Action Group Updates:**

* **The 6 Rs:** No update. Perhaps we should table once again at Tops, handing out reusable bags. Wendy may be able to take this action group on, replacing Heidi.
* **Green Business**: We must reach out to a new group of students to help us with this action group.
* **Green Spaces**: Janelle says we are working to change the village ordinance requiring property owners to keep grass in their lawns no higher than 3 inches.
* **Green Transportation:** Janelle stated that there will be a full-day Complete Streets training session on Monday, 9/30, 9:30am – 3:00pm, at Village Hall. Community leaders interested in helping to make New Paltz more pedestrian and bicycle friendly and accessible are urged to attend. Space is limited. Contact Janelle at 920-883-1788.

The Zero Emissions Parade and Green Vendor Fair will take place on the SUNY New Paltz campus on 9/21, at 3:30pm. Sign up at newpaltzclimatesmart.com or call Samrat at 845-419-3786.

* **Publicity & Social Media:** Janelle says the Climate Smart Newsletter is doing well. Please continue sending photos and stories to Victoria, so she can load them onto our social media platforms.
* **Youth:**  Janelle is reaching out to the New Paltz Youth Program and to the students who are planning events for the September 20th Student Climate Strike from 3:45pm – 4:45pm in front of Elting Library
* **Alternative Energy**: See CCA Status Report above. Mark stated that he had heard that net-metering for new residential solar installations has been extended indefinitely. But those who might be considering installing solar panels should make every effort to get it done by the end of 2019.

Janelle reported that the town had received three responses to the solar farm RFP to be developed at the landfill. They were all different and will require follow up from the prospective developers.

* **Lifestyle:** The last meet-up was held on Tuesday August 6th at 6:00 at McFoxlins in New Paltz. Jeff Domanski of Hudson Valley Energy presented an introduction to the Community Choice Aggregation electrical service that will begin in New Paltz before the end of the year. The next meet-up, ***Honey I Shrunk the Lawn***, will be on Tuesday, 9/3, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the SUNY New Paltz Student Center. Laura Wyeth will present a program that will include a visit to the new campus pollinator meadow

Minutes submitted by Mark Varian