

New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force

Meeting Minutes: 20 May, 2019

Attendees: Janelle Peotter, Mark Varian, Oliver Goland, Jason West, Amanda Gotto

Discussion: Possible community groups the task force should reach out to for support and potential new members: Retired Men of New Paltz, Gardens of Nutrition, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, New Paltz Historical Preservation, Volunteer Fire Department, Town and Village staffs, High School Environmental Club, Kiwanis, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce (Climate Action Coalition is a new member), Lions Club, Jewish Community Center.

Jason West reviewed the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory he developed for the Village and Town of New Paltz. If he can get on the agenda he will present the GHG Inventory to the combined board meeting on June 6th. Jason will also present his report to the Climate Action Coalition in the near future.

Sub-committees:

- **The CCA sub-committee met with both NY certified CCA administrators, Joule and Good Energy.** The sub-committee must determine whether to go through an RFP process to decide which administrator the sub-committee will recommend to the Town and Village. Other concerns are whether to include an opt-down feature to a less than 100% renewable energy source; what qualifies as an eligible commercial account; which commercial or municipal accounts would have to opt-in. To determine the best choice of administrator the committee may use a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) review. A meeting will be arranged for next week with Brad Tito from NYSERDA. The village mayor and town supervisor will be invited to attend. Mark will contact Tom Konrad from Marbletown to ask him to meet with the sub-committee to discuss his community's procedure for choosing a CCA administrator.
- **The 6 Rs:** No update. Uncertain if Heidi Firstencel will be able to remain active with the group since she has new employment.
- **Green Business:** Still focusing on working with Taste of New Paltz. Alex Coenen, Ilia Klimenchenko, and William Jordan, three high school students from New Paltz, are actively working on contacting restaurants as part of the Green Business Challenge.
- **Green Spaces:** Liz is considering planting an initial pollinator garden on a traffic island on Route 208 at the intersection of Mohonk Avenue.
- **Green Transportation:** Janelle is advocating for a Complete Streets program for the Town. The Village has one but it must be updated. The Bike/Ped committee is sending Pat Ryan, the new County Executive, a request that the County extend the bicycle shoulder from Butterville Road to RT 44/55. Perhaps New Paltz Climate Smart should also sign the letter.
- **Publicity & Social Media:** We're looking into possible grant money for a SUNY student intern. Check out: https://www.facebook.com/newpaltzclimatesmart/?modal=admin_todo_tour.
- **Youth:** Janelle is reaching out to the New Paltz Youth Program.

- **Alternative Energy:** See CCA sub-committee, above. Mark has no update on the proposed change from a net metering cost structure for new residential solar installations.
- **Lifestyle:** The first meet-up at the Rosendale Café was a big success. 19 people attended. Samrat spoke and answered questions about electric vehicles for over an hour. Next meet-up is June 4th at the New Paltz Community Center. It will be co-hosted by Resisterhood. Topic will be single-use plastics. Topic for a future meet-up at Kaleco Nursery in Tillson will be pollinators.
- **Budget & Grant Update:** The Town has received the grant contract for the Vulnerability Assessment and Community GHG Inventory. A new grant application will be filed by July 11th at 3:00 PM. Oliver went through a preview of the vulnerability assessment program.

Mark will attend the Chamber of Commerce Coffee Hour on June 7th.

Minutes submitted by Mark Varian