

# **TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – Sept 24, 2024**

The September 24, 2024 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Task Force was called to order at 7:00 pm. Committee members and guests in attendance were as follows:

Eliot Werner, Deputy Town Supervisor & CSC Task Force Representative  
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair  
Jack Persely, CSC Task Force Member  
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member  
Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force Member  
Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Member  
Judy Malstrom, community member  
Bridgett Roach, community member  
Melanie Roach, community member

## **Introduction**

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's meeting agenda, along with new Town Board-appointed CSC Task Force members, Jim Metcalfe and Ken Pickett. Following his welcoming of Jim and Ken, he then asked members if there were any questions or additions to the minutes of the previous meeting of August 27, 2024. With no questions raised, the minutes of the August 27, 2024 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

## **Clinton Community Day Arrangements**

Richard Marshall and Joe Phelan debriefed the CSC Task Force members in attendance regarding the Task Force's participation at the August 31, 2024 Clinton Community Day. Richard Marshall and Jack Persely set up the table, displays, and pop-up before the 10:00 am event start. Joe joined Richard around 11:00am, at which time Jack departed to attend to other non-CSC Task Force obligations at that time.

Joe and Richard worked the CSC Task Force booth, adjacent to the Clinton Conservation Advisory Council table, for the rest of the event, until approximately 4:00 pm, at which time all of the materials (flyers, Bronze application posters, easels, table, chairs, pop-up) were packed to be taken offsite for use at other future CSC Task Force events/opportunities.

Richard also debriefed the CSC Task Force members regarding the results of an informal survey taken of visitors to the display table regarding their thoughts on composting, particularly of interest in/support for a possible future composting effort by the Town of Clinton. The survey, while completed by a mix of Clinton and non-Clinton residents, generated a largely positive response to the prospect of a municipally-driven composting program by the Town of Clinton.

## **Potential New Members for the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

The Committee is in discussion with another community member, whose name has been provided to the Committee Chair by Eliot Werner, as another Clinton resident who had expressed potential interest in volunteer service related to the goals of the CSC Task Force. Joe Phelan reported having reached out to this

individual to determine his possible interest in involvement with the local environmental service work with which the Task Force is engaged. If this individual's interest continues, the Town Board will be encouraged to appoint him as a member of the Clinton CSC Task Force at the October 8, 2024 Clinton Town Board meeting.

### **Bronze Certification Review and Status Update**

Joe Phelan reported that the Town of Clinton has been notified of the DEC's decision to recognize the Town's efforts by awarding Bronze Certification in response to the application submitted on July 11, 2024 by Cornell Cooperative Extension's Anna Harrod-McGrew on behalf of the Town of Clinton. The Town and the CSC Task Force will collaborate on a press release to announce this news in advance of the provision of a plaque to be displayed at the Town Hall indicating the Town's Bronze Certification award.

### **Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding**

As a follow-up to the July 2024 notice of availability for a CEC grant up to \$10,000, the Task Force will work with Elizabeth Sun, the Hudson Valley Regional Council's Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, to access information regarding allowable Clean Energy Communities-related projects/purchases with these grant funds, and to request her assistance in completing the grant application prior to the October deadline date. Uses for this grant funding are both focused and limited in size and scope. However, two items of potential local interest, an EV charging station and an assessment of the Town Highway Garage for greater energy efficiency recommendations, might be eligible under this grant, depending on cost estimates.

### **Additional Grant Funding Availability for Composting**

Joe also brought to the Task Force's attention a re-opened grant opportunity from Dutchess County that had recently been released regarding a municipal grant opportunity with a 50% local match toward an in-vessel aerobic composter (up to \$50,000) or a food waste drop-off program (up to \$20,000), with a November 7, 2024 application deadline.

### **Future Planning**

The Task Force briefly discussed working toward completion of the Municipal Climate Action Plan, with the assistance and support of Eleanor Peck of the Hudson Valley Regional Council. This work was begun this past year, but was unable to be completed prior to the submittal of the Town's Bronze Certification application in July. A Zoom meeting with Ms. Peck on this topic will be scheduled for Fall 2024.

The next meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Clinton Masonic Lodge. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair