

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – JAN. 27, 2026

The January 27, 2026 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force was called to order at 7:00 pm. Committee members in attendance were as follows:

Eliot Werner, Deputy Town Supervisor & CSC Task Force Representative
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Member
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member
Stan Orser, CSC Task Force Member (via Zoom)
Judy Malstrom, CSC Task Force Member (via Zoom)
Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force Member (via Zoom)

Introduction

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's agenda. He then asked members if there were any questions, additions, and/or changes to the minutes of the previous meeting of November 18, 2025. With no changes suggested or objections raised, the minutes of the November 18, 2025 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

Joe also collected 2026 Employee Acknowledgement Forms that some of the members who were present in person had signed and brought with them, to be delivered by Joe to Town Clerk Carol Mackin.

Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding

Joe Phelan updated the CSC Task Force members regarding the status of the review of the bid documents for clean energy efficiency improvement work at the Town Highway Garage. This anticipated work is related to the two NYSERDA CEC grants received last year (for \$10,000 and for \$50,000) and in support of the grant-funded energy audit recommendations submitted by L&S Energy Services, the NYSERDA-designated energy audit firm. The cost of \$4,600 for the required audit expense already had been deducted by NYSERDA from the first \$10,000 grant. This leaves a grant fund balance from both NYSERDA CEC grants, of \$55,400 (\$5,400 + \$50,000) to be used to fund the implementation of as many of the L&S Services recommendations for energy savings measures at the Town Highway Garage as the requested low bids would allow to be implemented.

The goal is to prepare information for the Town Board, with bid document review and appropriate follow-up with bidders, along with technical expertise and advice, from Mark Long, Town Engineer. leading the use of the remaining \$55,400 from the two aforementioned NYSERDA CEC grants. It is hoped that Town Board approval can be secured at the next Town Board meeting, to be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, with work to be commenced as soon thereafter as possible.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Outreach

CSC Task Force members discussed the public presentation of work completed as part of the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning initiative for the Town of Clinton. The presentation was made on December 9, 2025 at the Town Hall by Itfayo Tyler, Climate and Environment Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension

Dutchess County (CCEDC). The presentation was attended by several members of both the Town CSC Task Force and the Town Conservation Advisory Council.

The CSRP process involved a series of interviews via Zoom with various Town of Clinton Board members, employees, and various volunteer members of relevant Town of Clinton Committees. The goal was to discuss, identify, and collect available data about Town of Clinton activities and initiatives in support of Town policies/practices/actions that have addressed, and/or will address, past and/or potential future crises/natural disasters, such as flooding and emergency evacuation, as a result of climate change impact within the Town of Clinton. The goal of this process was to connect with members of the Town Planning Board, CAC, CSC Task Force, and various Town officials to collect data for supporting the Town of Clinton's resiliency planning initiatives for possible future Town Board consideration.

There was also an initial discussion at this CSC Task Force meeting of a related federal program, suggested by CSC Task Force member Jim Metcalfe, entitled Community Emergency Response Team Training, which might be considered to support the goals of next steps of this CSRP initiative later in 2026, possibly in conjunction with the Town Comprehensive Plan development outreach.

Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) Report

CSC Task Force member Richard Marshall provided an update regarding his efforts on behalf of the CSC Task Force toward development of a draft Government Organization Climate Action Plan (GOCAP). The GOCAP is intended to address planning for the following topics regarding the Town's operations: Transportation; Municipal Facilities and Renewable Energy; Natural Resources (Water and Land Use); and Waste and Recycling.

Upon completion of a draft GOCAP document, likely not earlier than Spring 2026, the CSC Task Force will make a presentation to the Clinton Town Board, with a request for Town Board approval of the GOCAP, ultimately leading to implementation of the adopted Government Organization Climate Action Plan. The CSC Task Force members agreed to provide feedback to Richard regarding questions and/or suggestions for each element of the draft GOCAP, starting in mid-February 2026.

Future Town of Clinton CSC Task Force Interest/Projects Under Discussion

It was mentioned that Clinton Community Day has been scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2026, and that CSC Task Force members give consideration to staffing a table that day for this Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair