

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 28, 2026

The April 28, 2026 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force was called to order at 7:02 pm. Committee members in attendance were as follows:

Eliot Werner, Deputy Town Supervisor & CSC Task Force Representative
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair
Jean McAvoy, CSC Task Force Member
Stan Orser, CSC Task Force Member
Judy Malstrom, CSC Task Force Member
Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Member
Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force Member (via Zoom)
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Members (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 draft several minutes of the previous meeting of March 24, 2026. With no changes suggested or objections raised, the minutes of the March 24, 2026 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding

Joe Phelan updated the CSC Task Force members regarding the ongoing status of several bidding questions related to the 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), 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 energy 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.

Upon the technical expertise and advice from Mark Long, Town Engineer. for the use of the remaining \$55,400 from the two aforementioned NYSERDA CEC grants, Clinton Town Board bid approval was secured at the Town Board meeting of Tuesday, February 10, 2026. In light of several adjustments along the way, work will be commenced as soon thereafter, following a review by and approval from NYSERDA, with guidance from Hudson Valley Regional Council's Brandon Towe. As soon as clarification of several aspects of the bid work can be clarified by conversation between Mark Long and the successful bidders, the NYSERDA review and approval should be ready to commence, followed thereafter by the completion of the necessary work.

Upcoming CSC Task Force Initiatives

Joe Phelan reviewed several initiatives under consideration by the CSC Task Force later in the year:

- The Clinton CSC Task Force and CAC have been approached by Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County to support their application for an RIT community grant to address pollution prevention efforts in up to four Dutchess County municipalities. Selected municipalities, of which Clinton would be one, would receive full technical assistance from CCEDC staff, as well as a small mini grant to support the municipality in local implementation. The project would focus on helping municipalities complete three Climate Smart Communities actions:
 - **PE2: Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report** - CCEDC would lead report writing and help you conduct a waste stream assessment
 - **PE5: Organics Management Plan** - CCEDC would work with our municipality to develop and adopt a resolution or executive order on organic waste management
Includes launch of a pilot organics diversion program such as a drop off at a municipal building or limited collection system
 - **PE9: Climate Change Education and Engagement** - CCEDC would deliver educational composting workshops on our municipality's behalf
- Upon successful completion of the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Initiative with Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County staff this past year by the Town of Clinton CSC Task Force and Clinton Conservation Advisory Council, CCEDC is planning to engage the Clinton CSC Task Force and the CAC in a related follow-up project later in 2026. Related to this is consideration of participation in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) initiative, suggested by CSC Task Force member Jim Metcalfe.

Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) Report

CSC Task Force member Richard Marshall provided an updated draft to CSC Task Force members before the April 28th meeting regarding ongoing efforts on behalf of the CSC Task Force to develop a draft Government Organization Climate Action Plan (GOCAP). This plan is intended to address planning for Town municipal operations in the areas of Transportation; Municipal Facilities and Renewable Energy; Natural Resources (Water and Land Use); and Waste and Recycling.

Next steps outlined by GOCAP Chair Richard Marshall, following a meeting between him and Joe Phelan with Highway Superintendent Todd Martin and Highway Associate Melissa Karchmer to collect additional data for the draft GOCAP, will be for Richard and Joe to provide colleagues at the Hudson Valley Regional Council with the draft GOCAP to date to solicit input for completion of the draft document for presentation to the Town Board, likely not earlier than later in 2026. After addressing questions from the Town Board, the CSC Task Force would request Board approval and subsequent implementation of the adopted Government Organization Climate Action Plan.

It was also suggested that surveying attendees at the 2026 Clinton Community Day might also generate useful information to be used in development of the GOCAP. After that survey information has been woven into the draft GOCAP, they will discuss the status of the GOCAP draft with contacts at Hudson Valley Regional Council, in order to determine whether or not the draft GOCAP is ready for presentation to the Town Board for their review and adoption.

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

It was requested again for CSC Task Force members to represent the organization at this year's Clinton Community Day, scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2026. As in past years, CSC Task Force members are needed to volunteer with members of the CAC to staff the table that day on behalf of the CSC Task Force, to provide information on current CSC Task Force initiatives, and to seek public opinion on various issues being considered by the CSC Task Force.

There being no further business, and with the next CSC Task Force meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair