

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – MAY 26, 2026

The May 26, 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
Judy Malstrom, CSC Task Force Member
Richard Marshall, CSC Task Force Members

Introduction

Joe Phelan introduced the evening's agenda. He then asked members if there were any questions, additions, and/or changes to the draft minutes of the previous meeting of April 28, 2026. With no changes suggested or objections raised, the minutes of the April 28, 2026 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

Following this action, Jean McAvoy raised a discussion item, brought up at the most recent CAC meeting, about keeping a running list of initiatives implemented by the Clinton CSC Task Force and Conservation Advisory Council for use in applying for future renewal of Bronze certification or application for Silver certification in 2029. It was agreed that continuing to compile and update the list of public educational initiatives, projects, and accomplishments from both Town Committees for future certification and reporting purposes should be addressed.

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding Update

The meeting next focused on updates regarding two NYSERDA grants totaling \$60,000 for energy efficiency projects in the town, at the Highway Garage. Significant progress has been made to date on the smaller \$10,000 grant, with \$5,600 remaining after the NYSERDA-required energy audit costs. It was noted that documentation has been uploaded to NYSERDA's online system, as required, pending Commercial Liability Insurance Certification verification from Town Clerk Carol Mackin. The larger \$50,000 grant for windows and garage doors is on hold due to contractor coordination issues and pending NYSERDA approval processes, as with the \$10,000 grant. The Committee also discussed plans for the upcoming Clinton Community Day on June 6, where they will display information about the grants and climate initiatives at their table.

Next Steps: Obtain Town Commercial Liability Insurance Certification documentation from Town Clerk Mackin for uploading to NYSERDA for the balance of the \$10,000 grant. After insurance documentation is uploaded to NYSERDA, monitor NYSERDA review to ensure that initial funds from the first grant are released to the Town; Follow-up with Todd Martin regarding feedback on LED fixture costs for using the \$635 balance remaining in the second grant to start the process for having NYSERDA approve and release initial funds of 1/3 of the total amount from the \$50,000 grant.

Upcoming CSC Task Force Initiatives

Joe Phelan updated the Committee on the status of several initiatives being pursued by the CSC Task Force later this year:

- Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County's application has been submitted for an RIT community grant to address pollution prevention efforts in up to four Dutchess County municipalities. The Clinton CSC Task Force has been invited to participate, has submitted a letter of interest, and is awaiting CCEDC's grant approval. The grant application, if successful, would focus on helping the Town of Clinton and four other Dutchess County municipalities to complete three Climate Smart Communities actions: PE2: Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report; PE5: Organics Management Plan; and PE9: Climate Change Education and Engagement
- Upon successful completion of the initial phase 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 has begun engagement with the Clinton CSC Task Force and the CAC on a related follow-up project, to begin early this summer.

Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) Report

CSC Task Force member Richard Marshall provided updated information to the CSCTF members regarding ongoing efforts to develop a draft Government Organization Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) to plan for future Town municipal operations in the areas of Transportation; Municipal Facilities and Renewable Energy; Natural Resources (Water and Land Use); and Waste and Recycling.

As part of that conversation, water conservation and contamination issues in the area were discussed, specifically possible concerns, current or future, about potential groundwater pollution from a variety of possible sources. The conversation touched on potential solutions like tree planting and educational initiatives about water conservation, particularly in the context of climate change and flooding risks. They also considered involving experts from the Hudson Valley Regional Council for further input on the draft plan.

As part of the GOCAP development process, the CSCTF discussed Town Board adoption of a climate action plan focused on town governance rather than individual homeowner actions. It was suggested to review potential contamination issues, including use of road salt and how the highway garage handles oil changes and vehicle washing, suggesting consultation with a hydrologist for an expert opinion. The group agreed to have a future conversation with colleagues at Hudson Valley Regional Council once they are ready.

Next steps would be for Richard and Joe to provide a draft GOCAP to our partners at the Hudson Valley Regional Council to solicit input for completion of the draft document to be presented to the Town Board for review, likely not earlier than Fall 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 further development of the draft GOCAP.

Clinton Community Day Event Planning

The Committee discussed preparations for the Clinton Community Day event scheduled for June 6, 2026. A larger version of the list of recent CSC Task Force accomplishments will be developed for display at the CSC Task Force table, and coordination with Richard to arrange for the necessary equipment, including a folding table, pop-up shelter, and display easels. The Committee members discussed conducting a brief survey, to be developed, about Climate Change, in order to gather community feedback, which could be useful for upcoming action by the CSC Task Force. Several team members volunteered to help with setup, with Richard and Jean handling morning setup, and Richard and Judy supporting early display time. Ken Pickett has indicated his availability during the afternoon, with Elliot assisting with the afternoon time when ever Richard might have to leave.

There being no further business, and with the next CSC Task Force meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2026, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair