

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 23, 2026

The June 23, 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

Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force Member

Judy Malstrom, CSC Task Force Member

Jim Metcalfe, CSC Task Force Members

Tayo Itafayo, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County

Introduction

Before introducing the evening's agenda, Joe introduced Tayo Itafayo, who was in attendance to update the CSC Task Force members on planning for the second phase of the Climate Resilience initiative that will be occurring in several municipalities in Dutchess County this summer, including the Town of Clinton. Tayo presented an overview of the second phase of the Climate Resilience Project, which involves focusing on gauging public perceptions of future local climate-related hazards in the Town of Clinton through a survey of community members about their perceptions of future local climate hazards and identifying vulnerable infrastructure.

Tayo presented information on the second part of the Climate Resilience Project, to be focused on gauging community member perceptions of future climate hazards in Clinton, and leading to the development of a plan to address those concerns. The project's current phase will involve distributing surveys to community members, by mail and digitally through the Town website and e-mail, with both electronic and paper response options available. The community survey efforts will culminate in a vulnerability assessment workshop to be scheduled in August 2026. The workshop will include municipal officials and representatives from participating municipalities in Dutchess County, with the project to lead to the development of a full climate adaptation plan as the third phase.

Access to the Climate Resilience Survey being conducted to gather community input will be available online and at various locations, including the post office, the Clinton library, and various businesses in the Town of Clinton. The survey will be anonymous, though participants can optionally provide their names if they wish. The group also discussed upcoming public meetings to review community input, which will be scheduled for mid-late August, with specific dates and locations to be determined and publicized.

Next steps were discussed were as follows:

- Barbara Mansell will arrange for the Climate Resiliency Survey link, not just the QR Code, to be posted on the Town website for broader community access. She also will be placing a supply of Climate Resiliency surveys at the Town of Clinton Library and other public locations for community access.
- Carol Mackin will be asked to collect and manage paper copies of the Climate Resiliency surveys at Town Hall, and to distribute information encouraging participation in the survey via Town email.

- Jean McAvoy will be asked to maintain and update the list of completed actions and relevant documentation for Climate Smart certification/point tracking, including the recent bulk disposal and e-waste collection event to the Climate Smart actions list.
- Joe Phelan agreed to distribute climate resiliency survey flyers to area businesses, i.e. Jeanie Beans, Golden Russet, Stewarts, and others to inform and encourage community member participation, and will send Community Day survey results to Tayo for possible inclusion in the broader Climate Resiliency Survey results.
- Eliot Werner will post a copy of the Climate Resiliency Survey information flyer at the Clinton post office.

At the conclusion of Tao's presentation, discussion with, and answering questions from the CSC Task Force members in attendance, Joe shifted gears and asked members if there were any questions, additions, and/or changes to the draft minutes of the previous meeting of May 26, 2026. With no changes suggested or objections raised, the minutes of the May 26, 2026 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Grant Funding Update

Joe provided an update on the Highway Garage grant process, announcing that NYSERDA had approved the first \$10,000 grant, though there is a small discrepancy in the amount of \$200 in the cost of the Building Airflow Reduction work and the available NYSERDA grant funds, that will need to be addressed, possibly using Town funds. However, the airflow reduction work at the Highway Garage now should be able to be scheduled in coordination with the Highway Department, given NYSERDA approval, and to oversee the completion of that work for the NYSERD grant. Documentation for the larger \$50,000 grant for windows, garage doors, and LED lighting is being processed with NYSERDA, with an expectation that NYSERDA approval will be forthcoming shortly.

Upcoming CSC Task Force Initiatives

Joe Phelan informed the Committee that Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County's application for an RIT community grant to address pollution prevention efforts in up to four Dutchess County municipalities, has not yet been awarded to date. The Clinton CSC Task Force has been invited to participate and has submitted a letter of interest to participate. The CSCSC Task Force is awaiting notice of RIT approval of CCEDC's grant application which, 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.

Update: Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) Report

- In CSC Task Force member Richard Marshall's absence at this meeting, those members in attendance were supportive of asking Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) staff to review the draft GOCAP and share any relevant suggestions with us to include with our updated information to the CSC Task Force members regarding ongoing efforts to present a draft Government Organization Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) to the Town Board for future adoption in order 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.

It also had been 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. After addressing questions from the Town Board, the CSC Task Force would request Board review, approval, and subsequent implementation of the adopted Government Organization Climate Action Plan. It was also mentioned to ask HVRC about possible idling language to be included as part of the GOCAP draft

Clinton Community Day Surveying

Richard Marshall, Ken Pickett, and Judy Malstrom volunteered to staff the CSC Task Force table at the Saturday, June 6 Clinton Community Day event. During the CCD activities, Committee members conducted a survey of passers-by regarding their thoughts and opinions on Climate Change, in order to gather community feedback, which could be useful for upcoming action by the CSC Task Force. Thanks to Richard, Ken, and Judy for their participation on behalf of the CSC Task Force.

Additional Discussion Items

The meeting discussion also covered interest in recent bulk disposal and e-waste collection events at the Town of Clinton. The group also discussed submitting a letter to the County legislature regarding the incinerator closure, with Judy Malstrom agreeing to provide a draft letter for review at the next CSC Task Force meeting.

Joe confirmed plans to share Community Day survey results with Tayo as part of the Climate Resiliency Survey and suggested posting the findings on the website or in Mailchimp to show residents their concerns are being addressed. He also mentioned interest in creating a waste management survey, though he noted challenges in gathering detailed responses due to privacy concerns. Joe indicated that if the RIT grant comes through, Cornell Cooperative Extension would help implement educational composting workshops in municipalities.

The group discussed community compost bins and mentioned that while individual composting is common, a community compost system could be beneficial. A recent bulk disposal event was discussed, whereupon a 40-yard dumpster was used for general waste, at a cost \$500, while an electronics disposal event handled by Welch collected several boxes of old computers, printers, and other devices for e-waste recycling.

The group also discussed a transfer station initiative for ongoing weekly operations, with positive community response to the proper disposal of items rather than roadside dumping. Joe mentioned the interest in drafting a document for the Town Board regarding municipal emissions and environmental initiatives, including potential idling reduction measures and signs in parking lots.

Community Vulnerability Assessment Planning

The discussion concluded with Joe bringing up the Community Emergency Response (CERT) program, upon Jim Metcalfe's recommendation, noting that while the Town of Clinton has more homes than ever, its

population is shrinking due to the increasing weekend resident population, and sharing a personal experience from a recent windstorm.

The group also discussed the need to identify population vulnerabilities in the community, particularly regarding emergency situations like snowstorms, power outages, and climate change impacts. Jim raised interest in exploring the CERT program and creating a formal system to support vulnerable residents, potentially using existing community resources like churches and food pantries to gather information about those who may need assistance. The group agreed to continue discussing this as a potential addition to resilience planning, with suggestions to reach out to organizations like the Assessor's office and individuals like Carol Mackin, who might help establish such a network.

There being no further business, and with the next CSC Task Force meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2026, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair