

TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 25, 2026

The August 25, 2026 meeting of the Town of Clinton Climate Smart Communities Task Force was called to order at 7:01 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 Member

Ken Pickett, CSC Task Force Members (had to leave at 7:51 pm)

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 July 28, 2026. With no changes suggested or objections raised, the minutes of the July 28, 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. The CSC Task Force is still awaiting a final decision regarding the type of LED fixtures/bulbs that will be acceptable for the Highway Department to purchase and install that also will meet questions raised by NYSERDA and L&S Energy Services in their energy audit conducted last year. We are awaiting local confirmation and confirmation from NYSERDA before we can submit documentation to NYSERDA for their approval, which will initiate payment of 1/3 the amount of the \$50,000 grant, allow us to initiate and complete the LED work and the window replacement work from the CEC grant funds, and then to submit documentation to NYSERDA for final grant funds disbursement. Brandon Toye from the Hudson Valley Regional Council and Mark Long, the Town's engineer, have been working with us and the other parties to move this part of the project forward. However, to date, that has not happened, so we continue to work toward progress for project completion and grant disbursement.

The CSC Task Force also briefly discussed a potential new regional \$4 million grant opportunity from The Understory's Hudson Estuary Resilience Initiative, though timing would be challenging given the comprehensive plan process currently underway in the Town. Regardless, some interest has been expressed to the CAC from the Town of Clinton Library, which has yet to be discussed in any detail by the CSC Task Force or the CAC.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Resiliency Planning Grant

Joe Phelan also reviewed the status of the climate smart resiliency planning initiative with Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County. Survey data collected by Richard Marshall, Ken Pickett, and Judy Malstrom from the CSC Task Force during Clinton Community Day has been submitted for inclusion in the resiliency process, along with data collected thus far through a survey of area residents. A meeting of interested elected officials and community members from the communities that are participating in this

grant initiative, including the Town of Clinton, has been scheduled by CCEDC for Tuesday, September 29, 2026 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm at the Dutchess County Farm & Home Center in Millbrook, NY for the discussion and development of resiliency planning purposes in all four participating County communities, and to which municipal leaders and interested residents will be invited.

Update: Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) Report

There was additional discussion on the status of the GOCAP currently under development for the Town of Clinton. GOCAP Chair Richard Marshall and other CSC Task Force members continue to be supportive of asking Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) staff to review the draft GOCAP and share any relevant suggestions to include with 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 consideration and 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. Joe Phelan will coordinate a meeting with HVRC's Brandon Toye, Richard Marshall, and himself for the purpose of this ongoing discussion.

The conversation included a discussion of focusing on the need to establish accurate baselines for greenhouse gas emissions and average miles per gallon for the Highway fleet, with concerns raised about the current electricity data baseline being potentially flawed due to COVID years and renewable energy usage at the Victoria Center.

Relevant and important issues regarding greenhouse gas inventory numbers, particularly concerns about using COVID-impacted data as a baseline were raised as part of the discussion, within the context of communicating with HVRC's Brandon Toye regarding issues with using COVID-impacted years and renewable energy periods that may skew the baseline of 200 metric tons. Potential solutions including comparing data to other communities' pre-COVID numbers and using a comparative approach to isolate differences between renewable and non-renewable periods were discussed.

The CSC Task Force also reviewed an updated letter drafted by Judy Malstrom, with several minor tweaks included by Joe Phelan, for submittal to the Dutchess County Legislature regarding the incinerator and discussed a potential \$4 million grant opportunity from The Understory's Hudson Estuary Resilience Initiative, though they noted timing challenges with the Town's Comprehensive Plan currently under development.

The meeting discussion also covered interest in recent bulk disposal and e-waste collection events at the Town of Clinton that were raised at the June 2026 meeting. The group also discussed the letter to the County legislature regarding the incinerator closure, drafted by Judy Malstrom, as requested by the CSC Task Force last month. It was suggested that, upon review of a draft letter to the County Legislature, additional specifics be included in that draft letter, for review at the August 25th CSC Task Force meeting.

Related to opposition to the County incinerator, the group had previously discussed community compost bins and mentioned that while individual composting is common, a community compost system could be beneficial. A recent bulk disposal event, 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, had been discussed at the July CSC Task Force meeting

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. The conversation also suggested an 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.

Clinton Environmental Public Outreach Compendium

Comments at previous CSC Task Force and CAC meetings regarding maintaining a running list of the Town's outreach efforts had been discussed, with agreement that such a compendium should be established and maintained. Jean McAvoy, a member of both Town committees agreed to take on that responsibility and presented the work she had done thus far with that task. It was agreed that the benefit of keeping such a running list of such initiatives would be helpful documentation for supporting future grant opportunities, in applying for State recognition of positive environmental impact on the Town's part, and that a list of such efforts, not only by Town Committees, but by other Town-based organizations as well, could be a helpful historical source of environmental impact effort within the Town of Clinton. It was acknowledged that the work done in this regard by Jean has been an outstanding accomplishment thus far, and one that should be maintained in the future.

It was also noted that a Natural Resources Inventory Workshop is being held by Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm at the Dutchess County Farm & Home Center in Millbrook, NY for the discussion of the development and use of a municipality's Natural Resources Inventory. It was noted that a few years ago, the Town of Clinton participated in a grant-funded project, with the Town of Washington and the Village of Millbrook, to update its Natural Resources maps for use by the Town Board, as well as by the Town's Planning and Zoning Boards, as needed.

There being no further business, and with the next CSC Task Force meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2026, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair