TOWN OF CLINTON CSC TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

The September 22, 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 – via Zoom
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair
Jim Metcalf, CSC Task Force Member
Judy Malstrom, CSC Task Force Member – via Zoom
Stan Orser, CSC Task Force Member – via Zoom
Ken Pickett, 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 minutes of the previous meeting of August 25, 2026. With no changes suggested or objections raised, the minutes of the August 25, 2026 meeting were accepted by the acclamation of the Task Force members in attendance.

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Highway Garage Grant Update

Joe provided an update on the Highway Garage grant process. The CSC Task Force is still awaiting a final decision from the Highway Department regarding the type of LED fixtures/bulbs that will be acceptable to purchase and install that also will meet expectations raised by NYSERDA and L&S Energy Services in their energy audit conducted last year. We are awaiting local confirmation and approval from NYSERDA before we can submit documentation for NYSERDA 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 submit documentation to NYSERDA for the 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.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Resiliency Planning Grant

Joe reminded the CSC Task Force members about the climate smart resiliency planning initiative with Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County that we have been in partnership with for the past year or so. 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. Joe and Barbara Mansell from the Town of Clinton CAC are planning to attend, along with whomever else from the Town of Clinton might be interested and available. It was suggested that the designated time, during the afternoon of a workday, might not be convenient for some interested individuals to attend and asked if the meeting could be recorded or livestreamed. This suggestion will be passed along to those from CCEDC who are planning this event.

Update: Government Operations Climate Action Plan (GOCAP) Status Report

In the absence of Richard Marshall, GOCAP Chair for this initiative on behalf of the CSC Task Force, due to illness, there was a very abbreviated discussion on the status of the GOCAP currently under development for the Town of Clinton. Joe and Richard had met with HVRC's Brandon Toye for the purpose of this ongoing discussion, and it appears that the process continues to move forward with Brandon's support and encouragement.

Update: Draft Letter to Dutchess County re: County Incinerator

The CSC Task Force an updated letter drafted by Judy Malstrom, with several minor tweaks included by Joe Phelan, for submittal to the Dutchess County Legislature regarding the County Incinerator. After some discussion, it was agreed by the CSC task Force members in attendance that the Chair should send the letter to the Dutchess County Executive and County Legislature.

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 discussion also surfaced 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.

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

Jean McAvoy, member of the Clinton CAC and CSC Task Force was recognized for her efforts over many year's pulling together a comprehensive listing of the positive environmental actions and activities that have occurred in the town of Clinton, both by Town Committees, as well as by groups sponsored by related Town of Clinton-area organizations. This comprehensive list will serve as a valuable record and resource for future efforts to support the interests of safeguarding he well-being of the town's natural environment.

Clinton Library Interest in Pursuing a Regional/State Resiliency Grant

Staff from the Clinton library met with representatives of the Clinton CAC and CSC Task Force to discuss ideas regarding a potential partnership with the CAC and the CSC Task Force for a portion of a potential $4 million grant opportunity from The Understory's Hudson Estuary Resilience Initiative. Clinton Library

representatives were interested in feedback from the CAC and the CSC Task Force regarding a partnership with the Clinton Library in such a grant supporting the natural environment.

On that same topic, the CSC Task Force members also briefly discussed possible interest in a potential application for some of this same new regional $4 million grant funding opportunity from The Understory's Hudson Estuary Resilience Initiative, to improve the resilience of the Town in the event of flooding from unpredictable and potentially dangerous weather by seeking funds to extend the work done several years ago to improve stream crossings and culverts in more areas of the Town than were able to be ed in the last round of work in collaboration with Dutchess County. Ken Pickett volunteered on behalf of the CSC Task Force to pursue the possibilities of such a grant in collaboration with with the Town Highway Department.

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, October 27, 2026, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Phelan, CSC Task Force Chair