

Ulster County Climate Smart Committee

DRAFT Meeting Notes

DATE & TIME: October 26, 2015 – 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Room 208, Kingston Campus of SUNY Ulster, 94 Mary's Avenue, Kingston, NY

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Manna Jo Greene

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Sr. Legislative Employee

PRESENT: Laura Petit

ABSENT: Legislator Peter Loughran, Ron Leonard and Pat Courtney-Strong

QUORUM PRESENT: No

OTHER ATTENDEES: Ken Panza, Woodstock; Tom Konrad, Marbletown ECC; Betta Broad, Kingston Climate Smart; Azriel Alleyne, Freedom Solar Alliances, Kingston

Chairman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 and said it would be an informal meeting because there was not a quorum present.

New Paltz

Ms. Petit described several recent events. She saw that Woodstock had held a Solarize workshop similar to one in New Paltz. The New Paltz event had 30 to 35 people many that already use solar and want to keep up on latest information.

The "Walkway to Paris" event on the Walkway over the Hudson was a beautiful and successful event. 194 United Nations Flags were displayed along the walkway on posts from the re-use center. Walkers starting from each end of the walkway met in the middle under the flag of the United States. It was well attended and representatives of Scenic Hudson were there. She noted that these events seem to draw the same supporters.

On October 24 New Paltz hosted a "Green Fest" at the Recycling Center and representatives of Solarize New York and other green vendors were there as well. Local craftsmen including members of the Rifton Woodcrest came and the greenhouse was finished. The event promoted

the Zero Waste initiative and goes well beyond solid waste to include food security, hiking trails and promoting local green businesses.

Woodstock

Mr. Panza described the frustrating lack of progress on completing a 600kw solar project at the Woodstock water treatment plant. Things got off to a brisk start when the RFP was sent out in January; a vendor, On Force, was selected in February and a contract was signed in May. Then nothing happened. The President of On Force was questioned at a recent meeting and reported that they had no funding even though there is a great deal of funding available. Woodstock must now decide if they will continue to work with this vendor or drop them and choose another.

Another Solarize event is planned for October 27. Mr. Panza reports lots of interest and they hope to meet a target of 100 contracts between the towns of Woodstock and Rosendale.

There was a discussion of other funding sources that might be available for the 600kw solar project including an Ulster County wide program or even a program from a neighboring county, how the solar industry is growing and how funding sources are becoming more competitive

Town of Kingston

Mr. Alleyne reported the Town of Kingston Planning Board re-zoned and approved a site for public utility opening the door for the Jockey Hill solar farm. They also agreed to work on permitting. Crowd funding is the next step and they hope to start construction in the spring.

Chairman Greene hopes to discuss a letter to the Town of Kingston recognizing this green initiative when the committee has a quorum. She noted that former landfill sites are excellent locations for such projects.

Marbletown

Mr. Konrad reported the Environmental Conservation Committee proposed a single use bag fee of _____ cents. After looking at national trends they felt this approach was less controversial and less likely to attract potential lawsuits. The Town Board has not adopted this yet but seems receptive.

The next project they plan to look at is a municipal street lighting assessment and he asked for input and suggestions. Members offer a variety of resources. Mr. Konrad told the committee that Town Supervisors were contacted by Central Hudson who is offering a couple of street light replacement programs.

There was a brief discussion about Central Hudson tariffs.

City of Kingston

Ms. Broad reported that the Kingston Climate Smart Committee has not met. Mayor Gallo has not “authorized” the committee although they had been meeting unofficially. Everyone is busy this time of year and she expects it will be revisited next year.

The Solarized Kingston campaign is wrapping up and she is waiting for final numbers.

The larger Ulster County Solarize campaign that encompasses Ulster, Dutchess and Orange Counties is getting mixed results. As reported earlier, it is doing very well in highly motivated areas like Woodstock and Rosendale, but off to a slower start in other areas. She agreed with Ms. Petit that she is seeing the same people at these events. She hopes in the next year barriers will be addressed and more people can take advantage of solar. She plans to focus on community outreach and getting more businesses on board next year.

Energy Improvement Corporation

Chairman Greene reminded the committee that she and Legislator Tracey Bartels had sponsored the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) with PACE financing for businesses and that resolution passed one year ago. She was hoping to have a kick-off for businesses this November. She learned that Ulster County needed a “point” person for businesses to contact and after some conversations with County officials Deputy Executive Ken Crannell decided that he would be that “point” person. Chairman Greene has not been able to get a definitive answer on an actual kick-off event. She discussed her vision of what this event could look like and if she can coordinate something with Deputy Executive Crannell for the first week in December she will get the word out to the community.

There was a brief discussion about planned meetings between the EIC and County Officials and the process for developing this program. Members felt an urgency to get things started before winter.

Consolidated Funding Application

Chairman Greene reported that Ms. Courtney-Strong has been working on a CFA for municipal street lighting and that received 15 points from the Regional Development Counsel. As reported last month Citizens for Local Power for Community Choice Aggregation did not receive the 15 points but they are optimistic that if they continue to garner strong state and local support they will be successful.

Solid Waste Management Improvement

Ms. Petit said good progress is being made on the final report. It is a working committee and a draft outline was developed with everyone is working on a part of it. She felt they are getting good information and gathering opinions from other programs. Chairman Greene said it is a very cooperative committee that has many stakeholders including Legislators, Town Supervisors, haulers, recycling coordinators and a geologist and they are actively working with NYS DEC. They outlined various issues they have identified, a wide variety of solutions being discussed and how the discussions are progressing. Chairman Greene summarized successful programs like the one in Delaware County.

There was a discussion about sites being considered for a facility in Ulster County and what criteria were considered when looking to see if there were potentially appropriate sites; converting existing facilities from single stream to dual stream; cost of exporting waste; diversion rates; markets for compost products.

New Items

Action Items

- Chairman Greene asked Ms. Courtney-Strong to follow up on Energize with Deputy Executive Crannell.
- Chairman Greene will draft an commendation letter for the Town of Kingston for the committee to consider at the next meeting.
- Laura Petit asked for members to brainstorm on outreach to new individuals and groups to take part in climate smart initiatives.

Nuclear Power and Carbon Reduction

Chairman Greene gave a brief history of the development of the Federal government's list of clean energy resources in Clean Power Plan.

Reforming the Energy Vision includes a carbon reduction metric that lists energy efficiency and renewable energy resources. This list includes nuclear power plants as one that can get credit as "carbon reducing". Chairman Greene feels there should be some safety criteria and discussed issues with nuclear waste. There was a discussion about nuclear power becoming unaffordable as it competes in the market with wind and natural gas power generation and this "carbon reducing" designation would be a bonus financially making nuclear power more competitive without addressing the nuclear waste question.

Chairman Greene thinks this committee can have a valuable conversation about how to address the tensions, contradictions and challenges between these various energy generating resources and put it in a format that could educate decision makers.

Solar City contracts for SUNY Ulster and Ulster Landfill projects.

There was a discussion of details of the two contracts with Solar City to develop solar resources that are planned for SUNY Ulster and the Town of Ulster Landfill.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for November 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Karen L. Binder Library, County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY.

Notes Approved _____, 2015

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