

Ulster County Climate Smart Committee

Minutes

DATE & TIME: June 1, 2015 – 7:30 PM

LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, COB 6th Floor, Kingston, NY

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Manna Jo Greene

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

PRESENT: Legislator Peter Loughran, Ron Leonard and Laura Petit

ABSENT: Pat Courtney-Strong

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Betta Broad, Catskill Mountain Keeper

Chairman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 and asked individuals present to introduce themselves.

Motion No. 1: The minutes of April 27, 2015 were approved as amended.

Motion Made By: Legislator Loughran
Motion Seconded By: Ms. Petit
Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Greene, Loughran, Leonard and Petit
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes Approved

Old Business

Mid-Hudson Climate Smart and Local Climate Smart Task Force Updates

Ms. Broad reported the City of Kingston Climate Smart Commission has been meeting hope to be officially sanctioned by the Mayor very soon. They are promoting “Solarize Kingston” with

a kick off at Kegan's Ale, press events, community workshops and on Saturday, June 6, Emily Hauser is hosting a solar home tour at her Highland Avenue home in Kingston.

Ms. Broad is welcoming three new interns and is looking forward to promoting solar opportunities in Kingston and neighboring communities. She is planning a press event early in July.

There was a discussion about various partners and what services, financing, and other assistance is available.

Ms. Petit announced that New Paltz received notice of \$100,000 funding for a feasibility study of building a microgrid thru NY Prize (NYSERDA). The Town is working with SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz School District, Woodland Pond, New Paltz Police and Emergency Squad.

Meetings with County Officials -Ulster County Energy Audit and Related Initiatives (Update)

Mr. Leonard is meeting with Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell on Wednesday, June 3. The county is working on a solar energy plan. Mr. Leonard is disappointed with the progress the County had working with a particular vendor to date. There was a discussion of how to proceed in a timely manner.

Green Fleet Policy

Chairman Greene and Legislator Loughran reported progress is being made on the County's Green Fleet Policy and they hope to have something to vote on soon.

Ms. Petit asked about biodiesel fuel vendors and members discussed various vendors in the region.

Municipal Street Lighting Follow Up

Mr. Leonard reported a large event recently in New York City regarding municipal street lighting. He reviewed the list of 300 vendors that offer LED bulbs and narrowed down appropriate vendors that he felt would be advantageous to engage. He asked how to coordinate the efforts of various municipalities

Chairman Greene reported working with several other people to aggregate the purchase power of these municipalities. She reported a vendor that is active in Westchester might be the easiest to work with but might not be the best choice for this area. She mentioned a company in

Gardiner, NY that actually manufactures the LED lights and that might be a good choice to work with. They hope to bring people in the Central Hudson area together soon to discuss various options.

Energy Improvement Corporation (Update)

Chairman Greene reported that the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) documents have been approved and two businesses are interested in signing up. Discussions with the City of Kingston are ongoing.

Mr. Leonard told the committee about conversations with Energy Improvement Corporation and their willingness to fund not-for-profits. He feels this is critical and Energize is developing a process that will involve the County to accomplish this.

Community Solar

Central Hudson may be doing a demonstration project but members have not heard of a decision from the Public Service Commission.

There was a feeling that regulations are not favorable to these types of projects.

Mr. Leonard said a decision may have been made on Remote Net metering. He will try to get more information for the next meeting.

Ulster County Solid Waste Improvement Commission (Update)

Chairman Greene described the work of the Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission that included several field trips. She said a great deal of research being done in order to make a recommendation to Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency to plan for solid waste for the next 20 years.

New Business

Chairman Greene reported

- Consolidated Funding Applications for street lighting are due July 31, 2015.

- Details are being finalized for a workshop on June 27, 2015 at SUNY New Paltz regarding NY Changing Energy System – Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) as path to local power.

Legislator Loughran is looking for potential dates to have a New York State consumer advocate attend an upcoming meeting. Several dates were discussed.

Ms. Broad said an expert in anaerobic digesters would like to reach out and address the topic of such a project at the Ulster County solid waste treatment center. She was told to contact Legislator Hector Rodriguez, Chairman of the Solid Waste Committee.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for **June 22, 2015 at 7:00** p.m. in the Karen L. Binder Library.

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:12 PM.