

New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force

Meeting Minutes: 16 September, 2019

Attendees: Janelle Peotter, Mark Varian, Wendy Rudder, Orelle Feher, Jim O'Dowd, Lynn Cherry, Joe Bergstein, Amanda Gotto

CCA Status Report: The outreach session on Sept 12 was dominated by one attendee who was focused on negative issues. The facilitator did not do a particularly good job of addressing the issues or controlling the discussion so more attendees could participate.

Complete Streets training: Now scheduled for Monday September 23rd. This training is being paid for by a NYSERDA grant. Invited attendees include Town Board, Village Board, Chamber of Commerce director, Police Chief, Town Highway superintendent, Village DPW head, Town and Village Planning Boards, and SUNY Sustainability Director. The expected outcome is a broader understanding of the Complete Streets concepts and a close look at the current Town and Village policies.

Vulnerability Study: The decision to delay the survey deadline and subsequent workshop will be presented to the Town and Village Boards at their joint meeting on Oct 3. Response to the survey has been modest. A textable blurb that all CSC Task Force members can share with the link is needed. Also reach out to the SUNY Environmental Task Force at their Sept 23 meeting. The link can be found on the both the town and village websites. <https://forms.gle/X8iirMnGKRdKRRKpo8>

Action Group Updates:

- **The 6 Rs:**
 - Wendy Rudder has offered to take this action group.
 - Bag law -There was discussion of the state law vs New Paltz local law.
- **Green Business:**
 - We must reach out to a new group of students to help us with this action group; high school students may be too novice. The Environmental Task Force at SUNY might be a good source.
- **Green Spaces:**
 - A grant for planting a pollinator garden along the EST was not accepted for technical reasons; this project will still be pursued on a volunteer basis with some minimal funding by the Town.
 - There is action to change the Village ordinance requiring property owners to keep grass in their lawns mowed to no higher than 3 inches.
- **Green Transportation:**
 - There will be a full-day Complete Streets training session on Monday, 9/23, 9:30am – 3:00pm, at Village Hall. Community leaders interested in helping to make New Paltz more pedestrian and bicycle friendly and accessible are urged to attend. Space is limited. Contact Janelle at 920-883-1788.
 - The Zero Emissions Parade and Green Vendor Fair plus letters to car companies/petitions to share- holder meetings re: emissions and support of climate

action sites will take place on the SUNY New Paltz campus on 9/21, at 3:30pm. Sign up at newpaltzclimatesmart.com or call Samrat at 845-419-3786.

- **Publicity & Social Media:**
 - Jim Gordon has offered to take the lead on this action group.
 - Help uploading content to the website is requested.
 - Janelle is creating the monthly Climate Smart Newsletter. Victoria continues to help out with the website and Instagram. Please continue sending photos and stories to Victoria, so she can load them onto our social media platforms.
- **Youth:**
 - We need a volunteer to head this action group.
 - Janelle is reaching out to the New Paltz Youth Program and to the students who are planning events for the September 20th Student Climate Strike at 10AM in front of Elting Library.
- **Alternative Energy:**
 - See CCA Status Report above.
 - Those who might be considering installing home solar panels should make every effort to get it done by the end of 2019 as the 30% tax credit will be reduced in 2020.
 - The Town has received three responses to the solar farm RFP to be developed at the landfill. They were all different and will require follow up from the prospective developers.
- **Lifestyle:**
 - The September meet-up was held on Tuesday Sept 3 at the SUNY New Paltz Student Center; the title was *Honey I Shrunk the Lawn*. Laura Wyeth presented a program that included a visit to the new campus pollinator meadow. More than 20 people attended.
 - Future meet-ups:
 - Oct 1 at 6PM at Liquid Mercantile in Gardiner. The topic will be composting.
 - Nov 5 at 6PM at McFoxlins in New Paltz. The topic will be Repair Café.
 - Dec 3 at 6PM (location tbd). The topic will be carbon- conscious holiday wrapping.
 - Suggested topics for future meet-ups are carbon offsets, winterization, reducing/ending junk mail
 - Annual Zero Emissions Parade and Green Vendor Fair – September 21st in conjunction with the Climate Summit on the SUNY campus. EV drive through New Paltz plus parade on campus.
 - The Winter Expo will be held at Saint Joseph's; CSC was asked to consider co-sponsoring.

Minutes submitted by Amanda Gotto