

Village of Montour Falls

Sustainability Committee Meeting

June 5, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Present –James Ryan, Chairman; John King, Mayor; Dean Hillyard, Superintendent; Katherine Herlemann, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Schuyler; Christopher Skawski, CCE Schuyler Intern; and Emily Byers, Deputy Clerk.

Guests --Amanda Rodriguez, SCOPED; Paul Bartow, Schuyler Co. Historical Society; Steve Lawton, George Mahler, Tina Scriven, Flower Diva's; Jessica Westlake, Montour Falls Library; Kathy Paradiso, Paradiso's Village Bakery; Mark Wilber, North New York, LLC

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Ryan starts the meeting by reviewing the past actions the Village has taken up to the present. He first contacted Katherine Herleman in February 2018 with interest in the NYSERDA Clean Energy Community (CEC) Program. By March 2018, the Village had completed three CEC high-impact action items for the CEC Grant consideration. In April 2018, the Village Public Works Dept. installed the first municipal-owned EV charger in Schuyler County. Additionally, the Village of Montour Falls becomes the first designated NYSERDA Clean Energy Community in Schuyler County and awarded a \$50,000 no-cost share grant for 1) energy efficiency improvements and clean energy upgrades to Village Hall, 2) conversion of all NYSEG owned streetlights to LED, and 3) replacement of all interior/exterior lights for all Village owned buildings. Mr. Ryan notes that the 10-year expected cost savings of the NYSERDA CEC Grant components will total approximately \$324,000.

Chairman Ryan states that the Village submitted for the NYSDEC Climate Smart Communities certification grant in July 2018. In August 2018, Lime Energy conducted a complete lighting audit for the Village. In October 2018, the Village Board authorizes the creation of a Village Sustainability Committee. Katherine Herleman and Christopher Skawski conducted an energy audit of Village Hall in December 2019. Then in January 2019, the Village of Montour Falls is awarded the NYSDEC Climate Smart Communities Certification Grant.

Chairman Ryan informs the group that in February 2019 the Village submitted an application for the NYSDEC Municipal Food Scraps Recycling (MWRR) grant. In March of 2019, the Village Sustainability Committee had an unofficial quarterly meeting. The Village completed CSC certification projects (Fleet Inventory, Fleet Efficiency policy, draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory) in April 2019 with assistance from CCE Schuyler. In May 2019, the Village of Montour Falls is awarded the MWRR grant which names CCE Schuyler as educational campaign sub-contractor. CCE Schuyler and CCE Tompkins began CSC certification actions 1) Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and 2) Natural Resources Inventory. The Village has received energy audit results and free Energy Action Plan from Taitem Engineering.

Katherine Herleman states the Village of Montour Falls is part of a small group of communities that have become Climate Smart Communities. There are currently 24 in New York.

Mayor John King comments that grants are extremely important that to a community of Montour Falls' size.

Chairman Ryan took some time to review the Energy Action Plan from Taitem Engineering. Katherine Herleman states that the Village should agree on a plan for the second floor of Village Hall whether it'll be segmented vs. open space because that will directly impact energy efficiency.

Christopher Skawski discussed the Climate Smart Communities Social Media Strategy which will engage the community and spread information related to energy efficiency, and savings, approved by the Village Board May 16, 2019. He has also been working on the Complete Streets Policy, and Green House Gas Inventory.

Chairman Ryan asks the local business owners present at the meeting if they will consider having a link on their websites to the Sustainability Committee website, in order to relay the message that Montour Falls is a Clean Energy Community.

Amanda Rodriguez, SCOPED Economic Developer, states the Montour Falls realized early on that Economic development tied in with Climate Smart actions. She has also been working with the Village on street lighting, so she reached out to Chris regarding Complete Streets. The Complete Street idea now includes lights, street, car, driver, pedestrian, bicyclist, streetscape, businesses, homeowners, etc. The lights for example, do not have to be the most expensive or largest but should be effective, efficient, etc. for the Village. She will be working on a grant this summer for a Lighting Streetscape Plan which will include the Complete Street Policy in that plan.

Chairman Ryan notes that with the NYS DOT coming through the Village in 2020, the Village realized the need to look at streetscape, design, lighting, etc. and having more input in the outcome.

Chairman Ryan and Katherine Herleman detail the next steps for the grant, including resolutions to the Village Board for approval 1) Fleet Efficiency Policy, 2) Continuing Support for the Climate Smart Communities, and 3) Inception of a Municipal Energy Reduction Education Campaign. Some items that need to be completed are the lighting upgrades, Green Power Procurement Policy, the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, the Energy Reduction Campaign, a Heat Emergency Plan and a Construction/Demolition Waste Recycling Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Byers, Deputy Clerk
Village of Montour Falls