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**Minutes to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission Meeting, June 26 2019**  
**City Hall, Kingston NY 5:00-6:30 PM**

**Commission Members (Voting):** Elizabeth Broad, Miles Crettien (excused), Melissa Iachetta, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Sarina Pepper, Dan Smith, Karen Sullivan, John Wackman, Casey Schwarz, Maija Niemisto (excused), Cal Trumann  
**Commission Members (Non-Voting):** Amanda LaValle (Ulster County Dept of the Environment) represented by Nick Hzvoda; Brenna Robinson (Kingston Office of Economic Development, not present), Julie Noble (Kingston Parks & Recreation, Commission Chairperson), Alderperson At Large James Noble, Bill Carey or Designee (City of Kingston Common Council- not present), NYS Assembly Member Kevin Cahill or Designee (not present), John Shulteis or designee Kingston City Engineering Office, (not present) Edward Norman or Designee Kingston Dept of Public Works (not present)  
**Guests:** None

**I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:13PM. There was no public comment.

**II. Modifications to the Agenda:** None.

**III. Review and Approval May 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Casey Schwartz and seconded by Commissioner Karen Sullivan, the commissioners present approved the minutes to the May 24, 2019 meeting with one abstention by Commissioner Betta Broad who did not attend the last meeting.

**VI. Old Business: 2019 CSKC Goals**

- 1. CAP/GHG Emissions Update:** The Climate Action Plan is proposed to be updated for 2020 with Partners for Places as a grant opportunity.
- 2. Support City on Sustainability Projects:**
  - a. Composting:** The recently concluded resident composting survey was discussed by the Chairperson. Outreach to businesses regarding composting will be a follow up. Waste sorting event is scheduled for August.
  - b. Recycling:** The Chairperson discussed contaminants in recycling bins put out by City residents. Notes have been left on totes with observed contaminants. Future fines were discussed.
  - c. LED Lighting and City Hall Window Retrofits:** The Chairperson provided an update on street LED retrofits presently scheduled for September. Wendell is assisting with managing the project. Regarding City Hall retrofits, the project will be done in two phases with pieces cut to fit, magnetic with rubber and two glazing surfaces. LED lighting for municipal buildings is imminent with design being finalized.
  - d. Open Space Plan:** The Open Space Plan is now completed and delivered. There will be another public meeting to be announced. The Mayor will review the plan while CAC will consider adopting and recommending to the Common Council as a City Plan or as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.
  - e. Trees:** The Chairperson reported that approximately 58 park and street trees are deemed unhealthy and are to be removed. Leaving stumps in place as a community resource for either benches or for an art installation was mentioned. Budgeting for the next phase of unhealthy tree removal and replanting was discussed.
  - f. Kingston Point Park:** Bids for improvements at the flooded parking lot was discussed by the Chairperson.
  - g. Sea Level Rise:** A flood emergency plan discussed during the Sea Level Rise Learning Group process was discussed.
- 3. Reuse Center and Repair Café:** Commissioners Melissa Iachetta and John Wackman reported that flyers for the next repair café to be held on June 29 at Clinton Avenue Methodist Church in partnership with Bike Friendly Kingston. Redeemer Lutheran Church may be the venue going forward while Clinton Ave Church is undergoing work. Commissioner John Wackman reported on the Transition Movement in Kingston moving from carbon to post carbon economy. See link to the Repair Cafe: <http://www.repaircafehv.org/kingston>
- 4. Logo/Branding for CSKC:** Project is now completed.
- 5. Outreach and Education:** Commissioner Melissa Iachetta reported briefly on the new commission brochure/handout drafts focusing on “Reduce, Reuse, Rethink, Recycle” with a cover sheet. A vertical logo was discussed.
- 6. Refrigerants:** Commissioner Betta Broad reported on the September 21 at SUNY New Paltz. Link to the event is: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-climate-solutions-summit-tickets-63340815083>

Commissioner Casey Schwartz reported on Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) initiatives regarding refrigerants. The chief scientist and co-founder of RMI is Amory Lovens. Commissioner Dan Smith reported on types of refrigerants and heat exchanges which could inadvertently contribute to GHG. H factor. Compression rate and other technical issues with retrofitting existing equipment with a replacement for R-22 (aka Freon) were discussed. Link to RMI refrigerant information is: [https://rmi.org/insights?fwp\\_search\\_rmi=refrigerants](https://rmi.org/insights?fwp_search_rmi=refrigerants)

7. **Municipal Solar Project:** No update at this other than waiting on Kevin Gilfeather.
8. **Green Business Challenge and Green Jobs Training:** Commissioner Betta Broad provided a brief update on hiring a staff person at the County. Commissioner Cal Truman reported that the switch in the County Executive office may open the possibility of the position transitioning to full time.
9. **Support Zoning Committee Recommendations Update:** Commissioner Kevin McEvoy reported to the commission on the June 18 Task Force meeting. Commissioner McEvoy has found the Climate Action Plan zoning recommendation synopsis prepared several years ago by Commissioner Sarina Pepper and is incorporating Climate Action Plan recommendations into the scope of work subcommittee to the extent not already included. Next full Task Force meeting is scheduled for July 23 at City Hall, tentatively in Conference Room 1 at 5:30pm.
10. **Heat Smart and Heat Pumps:** Commissioner Betta Broad reported on the recent event in Marbletown. The possibility of a Heat Smart event in Kingston was reviewed by the commission. Such an event could focus on electrical vehicles, refrigerants, winterization in addition to heat pumps and clean energy with community engagement especially with new Kingston residents as possibility. Dandelion, Radiant Design, American Heating and Cooling were discussed as Heat Smart contractors. Outreach to The Mending Circle and Zero Waste Kingston regarding collaboration was mentioned by Commissioner John Wackman. Outreach to younger people in the schools and at the Y Farm was brought up Commissioner Sarina Pepper. Discussion regarding organizing a Kingston event is to be continued at the July commission meeting. Link to Heat Smart: <https://www.renewableny.org/heatsmart>
11. **Solar and Community Solar:** Commissioner Cal Truman reported on Saugerties community choice aggregation with 37 MW being considered. Beacon, Cold Spring, Poughkeepsie are among the communities that have decided to do community choice aggregation but Woodstock has not. The new County solar array in Saugerties was reported by Commissioner John Wackman. Nick Hvozda also reported on the solar array and energy storage.

#### **V. Announcements/Communications/Events/Updates:**

- a. **Public Safety/General Government Committee:** Commissioner Kevin McEvoy will attend the meeting tonight and will report on this meeting and matters from the Conservation Advisory Council such as the Open Space Plan.
- b. **Ulster County Climate Smart Committee:** Commissioner Cal Truman reported on letters in opposition to Danskammer. The Chairperson reported that the Mayor has already signed a letter.
- c. **Pointe of Praise:** Commissioner Cal Truman reported on a proposed job training event to be held for young people tentatively scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup> subject to confirmation.
- d. **Bring Your Own Bag:** Nick Hvozda reported on the recent legislation to go into effect July 15 providing details, a County handout and a few sample County canvas shopping bags for use by the commissioners. A separate NYS law will go into effect in March 2020. The County also has a FAQ page on its website on the topic. While the earlier County Styrofoam ban is regulated by the UC Health Dept., UC Weights and Measures will oversee the bag legislation.
- e. **Social Media:** Commissioners John Wackman and Sarina Pepper discussed possible social media initiatives with the commission.

**VI. Adjournment:** Upon motion duly made Commissioner Casey Schwarz and seconded by Commissioner Sarina Pepper, commissioners present unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 6:39pm.

*Note that website links are informational only. The Commission makes no representations as to content therein. These minutes represent a summarization of the meeting and not a transcription.*

**Vision:** *The City of Kingston will be a 'Model City' of energy, environmental and economic sustainability by 2020 within city government operations and throughout the community.*