



Climate Smart Dover Task Force Meeting Minutes



Climate Smart Dover Kick-Off Meeting

October 8, 2016
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Dover Town Hall

Present: Town of Dover Supervisor Linda French,
Climate Smart Dover Co-Chair and Conservation Advisory Council Chair (CAC) Evan van Hook
Climate Smart Dover Co-Chair and Town Clerk Katie Palmer-House
Climate Smart Dover Task Force member and CAC member Gregory Mendenhall
Climate Smart Dover Task Force member and CAC member Janet Pickering

Absent: Town of Councilman Joshua Viertel and CAC Members Debra Kaufman and Stancy DuHamel

Following introductions, Katie briefly discussed the background and history of the Town's decision to become a Climate Smart Community. Katie reported on the adoption of a Town Board resolution over the summer to pursue certification as a Climate Smart Community (CSC) by adopting the pledge as well as preparing a NYS CFA grant application achieve certification. The grant application was completed and submitted with cooperation from local environmental organizations that included the Housatonic Valley Association, Hudsonia, Ltd. and the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District that all agreed to assist the Town with reports and studies toward future certification. Supervisor French elaborated on the enthusiastic support of the Dover Town Board to achieve certification. CSC Co-Chair and CAC Chair Evan van Hook affirmed the CAC's support to help encourage, educate and assist residents with information and community-based activities toward certification. Evan offered assistance with connecting the Town with an energy (efficiency) organization that might help with coordinating energy audits of municipal buildings. Supervisor French agreed to assist any organization that would conduct the audits with building access.

The group reviewed the NYS Climate Smart Communities Certification "First Steps" Guide as well as materials that outlined steps within the ten elements of certification activities. Janet offered to contact a friend who participated in the Dobbs Ferry CSC certification process for advice on initial steps and share this with the group.

Katie facilitated a brief brainstorming exercise using the materials to develop five CSC certification activities that the group could work on over the next six months. She mentioned she would notify the group of the outcome of the grant application when notified. Activities that the group decided to pursue included: creating a local government "Green Team," arranging energy audits of municipal buildings, developing a government vehicle and fleet efficiency plan, implementing a government waste reduction plan and developing a Climate Smart Dover Facebook to announce the initiative and raise public awareness. Katie agreed to help facilitate implementation of the identified activities with outreach to task force members and the Dover Town Board as assistance was needed.