



Town of New Lisbon

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*** * * Press Release * * ***

New Lisbon Announces Climate Smart Communities Website and First Annual Progress Report

The Town of New Lisbon announced today that the town's Climate Smart Communities Task Force is launching a website and issuing its first Progress Report. The launch of the website and the release of the Progress Report are intended to coincide with Earth Day, April 22, 2021.

The purpose of the website is to share information about global warming and about the town's efforts to do its part to reduce its carbon footprint and to prepare for the impacts of global warming. The site can be accessed by a link on the town's website, townofnewlisbon.com, or directly at <http://townofnewlisbon.com/csc/>. The website complements the Climate Smart New Lisbon Facebook page, which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/NewLisbonCSC>.

The Progress Report summarizes the plans and accomplishments of the New Lisbon Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force since its inception in March 2019. The Task Force intends to release annual updates to this Progress Report on or about each Earth Day hereafter. A copy of the report can be found on the town's Climate Smart Communities website or by request to Town Clerk Charlene Wells at charlene_r_wells@yahoo.com. Among the many accomplishments mentioned in the report are converting the Garrattsville streetlights to LEDs, which reduced consumption of electricity by 65%, and installation of a walking trail at Texas Schoolhouse State Forest (TSSF) and of a bicycle route connecting TSSF and Gilbert Lake State Park.

The current Task Force members are: Town Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson (Chair), Town Councilwoman Flo Loomis, Town Supervisor Ed Lentz, and town residents Alyx Braunius, John Braunius, Vicky Lentz, and Tom Riso.

Task Force chairperson, Town Councilwoman Nancy Martin-Mathewson, said, "This is very exciting. The new website will enable us to reach more people and generate more

Supervisor: Ed Lentz
Deputy Supervisor: Nancy Martin-Mathewson
Council members: Flo Loomis, Brian Ryther, Bill Whitaker
Highway Superintendent: Donald Smith

Justice: William Burdick
Clerk/Collector: Charlene Wells
Assessor: Pam Dyn-Gohde
Land Use EO: Tom Riso

awareness and interest among town residents and others. The Progress Report shows how much even a small number of people can accomplish when everyone works together.”

Task Force member, Town Supervisor Ed Lentz, said, “The town board is fully behind this effort. We recognize that even though New Lisbon is a small rural town, we have an obligation to New Lisbon residents, as well as a moral obligation, to do what we can to reduce global warming and to prepare for what it is bringing to us, especially in this part of the country with respect to extreme weather events.”

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, as of 2014, the annual average temperature statewide had risen about 2.4°F (1.3°C) since 1970. Average annual precipitation has been increasing across New York State and is expected to continue to increase, with more frequent storm events and heavier downpours.

The Town of New Lisbon is a small vibrant community covering approximately 45 square miles in central Otsego County and having a population of approximately 1,100 persons. The most prominent environmental features of the town are the Butternut Creek, which spans the full length of the town from north to south on the west side of town; the West Branch Otsego Creek, which does the same on the east side of town; the Texas Schoolhouse State Forest, which has hiking trails with trailheads on Jones Road (including one with interpretive signage describing some of the plants and animals that can be found in our area); Gilbert Lake State Park, which is a beautiful place for camping, swimming, fishing, boating, bicycling, hiking, and more. A challenging bicycle route connects Texas Schoolhouse State Forest and Gilbert Lake State Park. The town comprises several unincorporated hamlets, the largest of which is Garrattsville, and numerous farms and small businesses including a goat dairy and a craft brewery.

For further information, contact CSC Task Force chairperson Nancy Martin-Mathewson at 607-263-5784 or nancymartinmathewson@gmail.com.