

Bronxville Climate Smart Task Force Meeting

March 31, 2021, 6:30 P.M. Virtual

Present: Stephen Shallo, Climate Smart Coordinator; Joseph Cutaia, sophomore at Bronxville HS; Ellen Edwards, Chair of Bronxville Green Committee; Helen Knapp, Bronxville Trustee; Pamela Lippe, former director Earth Day NYC and president of green building company e4inc.; Maria Terjanian, Chair of Community Engagement for the Green Committee; Carole Upshur, Professor Emeritus U Mass Medical School.

Not Present: Craig Hart, Director of Pace Univ. Energy & Climate Center; Thomas Breglia, NYP Hospital Director of Westchester Facilities; Elizabeth Brennan, Bronxville High School student

Stephen thanked everyone for being there; members briefly introduced themselves, indicating how long they'd lived in Bronxville and what led them to want to join the Task Force.

Stephen Explained:

*We will be advising the Trustees; we will provide them with information with which they will make decisions regarding Actions Steps in the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program.

*We are encouraged to study the Action Steps on the CSC website for short- medium- and long-term steps we might take; he asked us each to send him five steps we'd like to consider pursuing. NYS updates the Action Steps frequently on their website so we should keep checking back.

*He encouraged us to study a section on the CSC website that lists Action Steps other towns have received credit for, and consider using them as a template for our own actions.

*We will meet quarterly unless work on specific projects necessitates additional meetings.

*At April's Trustees' meeting, they will pass resolutions to formally establish the Task Force and Coordinator; then Stephen will set up the first of two Public Meetings required by the program.

*Stephen reminded the Task Force of the importance of keeping good records, since the State will require specific data to back up our claims of having accomplished specific Action Steps.

Questions and Suggestions Arose from other members:

*Ellen mentioned that Jim Palmer had earlier sent a list of steps Bronxville has already taken, which might win points in CSC. Stephen agreed to pursue that, with the caveat that the state imposes time limits and we're not yet sure how many actions will qualify.

*Ellen wanted to be sure Joseph knew about outreach that Green Committee members have taken at Bronxville school and suggested he connect with follow student Charles van Tienhoven, who is involved in those efforts; the group was pleased to hear of Joseph's independent study of ways to increase the engagement of elementary and middle school students on environmental issues.

*Pam suggested we connect with Peter McCartt, Director of Sustainability and Energy Conservation, Westchester County, who has offered to help; Ellen will send Stephen Peter's contact info.

*Carole suggested that we might be able to use grant money to hire an expert to gather data for municipal and Village greenhouse gas emissions inventories, to help fulfill those Priority Action Steps.

*Stephen is not aware of any clean energy features being part of the new DPW structures, but he does want to resume pursuit of a grant to pay for future solar panels.

*Ellen asked for clarification of what facilities in the Village are municipal buildings; Stephen said library, firehouse, all structures in public parks, and all structures on Village Hall property are considered municipal.

*Ellen mentioned that some CSC Action Steps overlap with NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities (CEC) programs, which has separate point and grant systems. When we undertake clean energy Action Steps under CSC, we should be sure to also apply for credit under CEC.

*Pam suggested the Village consider hiring a summer intern from a local school to assist Stephen's work on Climate Smart work.

Stephen ended the meeting by saying he'll send a follow-up email within the next few days reviewing what we've discussed and reminding us each to send him five possible Action Steps to pursue.