

NS Climate Committee May 18, 2021 Notes

Katherine Daniels, Janet Olshansky, Holly Thomson, Pam & Eric Pooley, Janine Kourakos, Maria Hlusko, Jocko McKen, Nzignha, Emily Simoness, Amy Rosmarin, Brandy Keenan, Chris Brockeyer, John Roach, Phineas Keenan, Charlotte Harris, Bob Tompkins,

Introductions of Brandy Keenan & Phineas Keenan. Everyone also introduced themselves.

Google sign-up for focus areas. Please sign up for at least one area so we can report on those areas. Will be doing seminars and public education workshops in these focus areas.

Core mission: come up with climate action plan for NS. & to set targets to reduce our emissions beyond greenhouse gases. Plan to address more. Focus on carbon drawdown too.

(Native plant and pollinator pathway = something that homeowners can do to make a difference.= something we can do right away. Can co-sponsor with Open Land for next pollinator meeting.)

Can model ourselves on a plan to model. Need to decide on which one.

May work in coordination with what's happening in Croton Falls.

EV Charging Stations update: some hurdles to overcome. Warren has been very engaged with NYSPG to overcome pricing issues. Chargers will be type 2 charging stations at Croton Falls Train Station, Town Hall and Courthouse. We need to price it right: to be charged to charge. Want to price it to encourage people to use it. Janine offered to send out update of Warren's conversation with NYPEG.

Salt Dome: potential solar project to be included in plan. Put solar panels on salt dome. Warren thinks we can power. Has gone out to bid to replace roof installing these panels.

Edris & Katherine working on Clean Energy Filings giving us access to money. Doing things that give us credit so we can access money. Town board has started doing things that qualify in 2008/09. Can we get credit on work already done in past.

Transportation committee: ways to reduce traffic, volume of traffic. Encourage EVs and public transportation will be part of plan. Have a start in comprehensive plan.

Webinar on May 26th: Solar on horse farms. Put solar on some of large indoor arenas. Came from Equine organization. = using roof space.

River Horse farm has panels on her barn and indoor ring. Charlotte thinks they are able to share with the grid. Charlotte talking to owner.

Lynn Edens farm is 0 carbon emitting. They are geothermal.
Much potential to cut down on emissions.

Do a spotlight on these stories: Alex Finely or Lynn Edens? Idea suggested.

Charlotte looking for someone to work with her on these solar panel ideas. Sign up for Solar. Charlotte is the point person.

Watershed counsel. Can they provide us with support too? Emily and Brandy to discuss & try and engage them.

Pam & Janine re other town plans:

Bedford Town: Pam spoke to Bedford 2030 Climate Action Plan. (their second iteration) Have an executive director, Midge. The ED will come to our June meeting.

How to get this going? Read other climate action plans. Hired a consultant to do GHG findings. So they know where to focus. They focus on Transportation, Buildings, and Natural Resources. They wrote 20 versions, met with dept heads, then with public. They wrote the plan, not a consultant. 3 people wrote it.

Katherine thinks Bedford model may work for us and they are similarly situated.

Janine had a conversation with someone at Bedford too. First initiative they did was focused on public education. Energy efficiency and reducing use of pesticides and reducing greenhouse gases. = reduce emissions. = low hanging fruit. Numeric measuring is a good base. Get a base and set a target like Bedford did.

Same advice from Croton on Hudson: don't do too much. Just tackle a few things:

Tools for tracking Carbon= Cure 100 Tracker is one. Need someone else to help search for carbon tracker. Reach out to Katherine if interested.

State Legislation:

1. Clean Future Act
2. Birds and Bees Protection Act = pollinators. Mentioned Open Land's work on pollinators and inventory of large tracks of land that could be cultivated for agricultural use. Land could be used to protect environment as well as to feed people. FYI. NS has 50% of ag land in Westchester.

Critical this is part of our plan. Encourage landowners to preserve their land

Janine to send around the link again on Wednesday.

Croton on Hudson: *proceeded on action items without a formal plan. They are a silver community because of their actions.* Katherine to ask them to talk to us.

Newsletter. Keep track of what we're doing.

North salem news receptive to what we're doing. Get Carol engaged with us.

Note: Our meetings are open to the public & agendas are posted online.

Will try to get Bedford and Croton to talk to us on the 15th.

Will focus on EV charging stations and salt shed now. Let Katherine know if you're interested in getting involved in these == practical current items. Good to have immediate items to focus on so we have early success stories.

FYI. Solar fields not permitted. Can have roofs. It's permitted by town laws.

Public Seminars: should be putting in solar panels.

Another public seminar idea: what's the best power provider to be green & sustainable. Sustainable Westchester to come and discuss. We'll set that up. = Public Information session. Consensus: Make this a priority. CCA

Work independently and dig in. Can work on more than one area.

Anyone want to volunteer to be one of authors of the plan?

Action plan: Plan to write, send to dept heads then go to the public.

Roof space on the school as potential place for solar panels. What has school been thinking? School has been replacing roof in sections. Not clear what current thinking is if it's part of their thinking. (Brandy not here.)

Questions: is the turf climate safe? Decision that we shouldn't make a statement on a politically sensitive issue. Amy to forward letter from Mount Sinai on this issue.

Next meeting June 15th.