

**Canaan Climate Smart Task Force  
Minutes  
March 19, 2024**

**Attendance:** Brenda Adams, Will Powers, Dylan Cipkowski, Becky Meier, Craig Westcott, Thomas Potter

- Not in attendance: Marion, Elyse, Tara

**Minutes approved from last meeting**

**Community Solar**

- Brenda talked to several community solar companies and there is no capacity at this time.
- Canaan cannot go on community solar for the next 30 months because they just signed a contract for a fixed rate electrical supply.
- Becky will contact Brian at Ampion and ask how many Canaan residents are still waiting for capacity.

**Heat Pump Demonstration Site**

- The library and community spaces of highway garage combined equals 1100 sq. feet.
- 1000 sq ft is the minimum allowed for a demonstration site.
- 700 CEC points if a town has a 1000 sq ft space that installs a heat pump and is a demonstration site.
- Craig will find out (from Tara) if we can aggregate the two spaces.

**Town mower is new and does not need replacing**

- So we cannot get points for that.

**Disaster preparedness training**

- April 26, 4-6 pm
- Where?
- National Guard will give training.
- Canaan, New Lebanon sponsoring
- Do we get points for this?

**Trout Unlimited grant for culverts**

- Brenda is working on this.
- Conversations underway.
- Picking priorities.
- Must be on town road.

**Town Pond**

- Fire company, Dylan, Brenda, DEC, maintenance department met about Town pond.
- Fire company is interested in making the dry hydrant operative (which will require some dredging).
- There is Interest in making the pond available for recreational use- fishing, kayaking. It was used recreationally previously. But it has silted in.
- Not interested in storm mitigation work because it would need yearly maintenance which they don't have capacity for.

### **Generators for town hall and highway garage**

- arrived
- propane arrived
- Waiting to install

### **Gardening Day, May 20, 2024**

- on town calendar
- Dylan made a nice flyer
- Dylan will send an electronic copy of flyer to Climate Smart Task Force and we should put them up around town and send them to friends in Canaan.
- Brenda put something in the newsletter about this.
- Becky will write a paragraph asking for volunteers for a garden maintenance committee.

### **Update benchmarking**

- Craig reached out to Heather.
- Craig and Heather will make a date to complete this.

### **Municipal fleet inventory is done and submitted.**

- YAY!!

### **Electric vehicle campaign**

- Scoping document sent in and approved by NYSERDA
- Becky, Marion and Elyse will continue to work on this campaign
- Need to write something for the newsletter about the campaign
- Need to plan a public information webinar
  - date
  - content
  - advertising

### **Heat Pump continuation Campaign**

- Becky, Marion and Elyse will continue to work on this campaign
- Brenda sent Becky a list of heat pumps installed in Canaan by county and those getting permits from Canaan building inspector
  - Marion needs to call Dell to see if they put in any heat pumps in Canaan.

- They do not (although they should) get a building permit for their installations, therefore they would not be on the lists Brenda sent.
- Becky will write something for newsletter
- Plan a webinar
  - Rycor willing to participate again
  - date?
  - content?
  - advertising?

### **What we can do to obtain Climate Smart Silver Certification**

- New Lebanon applied for Silver
- Steve Powers sent Craig a list of what they did for Silver.
  - Craig and Dylan will look it over to help get ideas.
  - Craig and Dylan will make a list of questions for Steve/New Lebanon
  - Craig and Dylan? will speak with Steve
- Marion, Craig, Will, Tara will present a plan for how Canaan can get to Silver for next meeting.
- Some things New Lebanon did for Climate Smart Silver
  
- New Lebanon put solar arrays on their municipal building (with \$100,000 they got from CEC)
- Organics management plan (composting?) 12 points, We need to find out what this is?
  - Chatham transfer station is now accepting organic composting matter- could that be our plan?
  - or can we share with New Lebanon?
- Adopted Stretch Code- 10 points-
  - energy efficiency add on to the building code.
  - voluntary agreement.
  - Needs to be voted on by local law.
  - Often people don't want it because it is more costly.
- Source point protection, 12 points. What is this?
- Greenhouse Gas reduction- ? points . This is probably too big a project for us at this point
- Comprehensive Plan- 15 points. Brenda is working on this.
- Heat pump at their municipal building, 17 points,
  - How was the 17 points arrived at?
  - We might get points for library heat pump and more if we put in another
- CARP- 36 points. We will get this also when it is finished.
- When we apply for Silver, it means we recertify for Bronze. Combined we would get 1400 points toward our Gold certification.

### **Clean Energy Communities**

- We already have a 10% energy reduction. If we hit 15% we get 200 points and if we hit a 20% reduction we get \$300. We might be able to achieve this if we install a heat pump in maintenance building.

### **Canaan Day**

- June 15th
- Stoddard Park
- time?
- Becky will recruit clean energy companies to have a 10 x 10 booth
- Becky will bring her electric car to show off with information about the car
- Becky, Marion and Elyse will have a table to talk about the heat pump and electric car campaigns

### **Heat Emergency Plan, Cooling Centers**

- Brenda will work on these

### **Town Newsletter going out next week**

- Submissions needed by this Friday.
- Becky will send information about
  - Electric Vehicles campaign
  - Heat Pump campaign
  - If you buy an electric vehicle, or put in a heat pump let us know.
  - Seeking Volunteers for garden committee

### **Columbia County received funding**

- getting 4 new electric vehicles and 20 level 2 chargers.

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension grants for projects with Canaan**

- Audrey from Cooperative Extension didn't come to last meeting so we don't know if they got the grants.
  - Development of a webpage, social media campaign about climate change, disaster and emergency preparedness information- PE9
  - Development of a Flood Guide for Canaan residents and businesses.

### **Request for NYSERDA funding letters**

- EVERYONE Read Email from Tara
  - Proposal to end CEC (the program that gives funding to towns) in next round starting in 2026
  - Proposal to cut back on Regional Planning Commission's help (Tara)
  - She is asking us to send feedback to Public Service Commission by April 15
    - How to explained in email
  - Brenda will get Town and County boards to advocate for continued funding
  - Where does this money come from?

### **CARP document**

- EVERYONE Please read over and send feedback by March 25 (next Monday)
- Craig sent us an email with this

### **Look over and update tracking document for Climate Smart**

- Will, Craig, Marion, Tara will work on this

### **Solar zoning law in Canaan**

- Brenda and Tom will look over the existing law and bring any revision suggestions to the next meeting
- CLC helped Kinderhook write a model solar zoning law.
- Discussion about where solar development should happen: ag land vs. brownfields, along highways...

### **Earth Day Activity for small group of volunteers**

- Saturday, April 20
- StonyKill Stream clean up
- Need waders and kayaks
- Contact Brenda if interested

### **Next meeting:**

- Tuesday, April 23, 7 pm,
- Town Hall

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