

Canaan Climate Smart Task Force Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 7 pm

Canaan Town Hall

In Attendance: Will Powers, Elyse Mason, Dylan Cipkowski, Victoria Mills, Becky Meier, Brenda Adams, Nick Adams, Lindsey Anne Strehlau-Howay

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVED: 08/28/24 Canaan Climate Smart Task Force Meeting Minutes approved with addition that Marion helped with the Climate Carnival.
2. CLIMATE CARNIVAL: Excellent event. Advertising was difficult. Canaan lawn signs were removed twice. Not much social media. About same attendance as last time. Mostly people already converted to the cause. Good array of booths. Repair cafe very busy. Music too loud. Electric Vehicle display got lots of questions and discussions. The Canaan Booth did not have many visitors. One person signed up to learn more.
3. TOWN BOARD Meeting of 9/9/24:
 - a. Three bids on heat pump for the highway garage were procured. Board approved installation of the heat pumps. Brenda will send in the order to Rycor tomorrow.
 - b. The new roof will be installed on the highway garage this week.
 - c. Putting solar panels on highway garage may cost more than the \$100,000 we hope to get from the CEC completion.
4. NYSEDA CEC FUNDING UPDATE: Funding levels decrease after October 1 (from \$100,000 to \$75,000) so the deadline is now September 30th to submit materials demonstrating we've earned 5,000 points. We now have 4100. We need 900 more.
5. CEC PROGRESS REPORTS: Update and next steps toward securing 900 points toward CEC target of 5,000 points. Can we upload the necessary documentation by 9/30?
 - a. CLEAN ENERGY UPGRADES (municipal): 200 points if we cut emissions by 15%, or 300 if 20%.
 - i. Haley is calculating what we can achieve based on specifications from Brenda on the heat pumps at the DPW.
 - b. COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS – CLEAN HEATING & COOLING: We have identified 11 heat pumps installed since 6/2023, so will earn 600 points.
 - i. Elyse has already submitted that information.

- ii. If we find four more by 9/30, we could earn 700 points.
 - c. Elyse will call Haley about calculations on clean energy upgrades, when we will receive the heat pump credits and whether our items need to be submitted or approved by 9/30
 - d. ELECTRIC LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT: Money (\$5000) for equipment comes from completion of the EV Campaign. We could get 200 points if we meet the GHG reduction target with these new pieces of equipment.
 - i. We need to submit a form telling what we want to spend the money on. Elyse will do this.
 - ii. Stephen has identified electrical landscaping equipment that the town could use and has received 5 bids.
 - iii. The Board needs to approve this purchase. Since the next Board meeting isn't until October, Brenda will try to call a special meeting asap to get this approved. Once it is approved Stephen van Tassel can buy the equipment.
 - iv. Then the receipt needs to be sent to CEC and they will reimburse us the money. Elyse will do this.
 - e. If we get the above documentation in on time we will achieve from 1000-1100 points.
6. CSC PROGRESS REPORTS: Update and next steps toward securing 156 points toward CSC target of “Silver “300 points. Can we complete necessary documentation by the submittal dates of either 01/01/2025 or 04/01/2025? We need to look over Marion's tracker for our progress on this.
- a. PE5 Action: Use climate-smart materials management. Reuse Programs: ACTION 5.6 –
 - i. Yard Sale at Stoddard field (pts 1-7) (Marion with help from Becky/Elyse) Town Wide Yard Sale, Repair Cafe and Free Table on Saturday, October 12 at Stoddard Park. Info went out in newsletter.
 - ii. Marion, Becky and Elyse paying for 10 lawn signs to advertise the event.
 - iii. This is a pilot program, which we can hopefully make a yearly event.
 - iv. Marion is meeting with Repair Cafe Coordinator, of Sustainable Hudson Valley, Suzie Fromer this Thursday. <http://www.repaircafehv.org/>
 - b. PE5 Action: Community Repair: ACTION NA Row (61) (pts 4).
 - i. Repair Cafe part of the Town Yard Sale
 - c. PE6 Actions: Implement climate smart land use. Town using ARPA money for a strategic plan (PE6 action Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements & PE6 Zoning for Protection of Natural Areas). This would include:

- i. updates to zoning for climate and housing affordability
- ii. applying for another grant to install a walking and biking trail at Stoddard Park (Walking Trails in park = PE6 Planning for biking and walking and/or PE6 Infrastructure for Biking and Walking, would need to look at specific requirements)
- iii. Working on a Bus loop from Chatham, New Lebanon, East Chatham, and Canaan, to coordinate with county-approved bus loop from Hudson to Chatham. (Public Transit = PE6 Access to Public Transit). Nick has found a route and timed it. Maybe this can be completed by April

c. PE 7: Enhance community resilience to climate change- from CARP-Audrey

COMPLETED via Canaan's CARP plan (adopted):

PE7_7.1 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment (4-16 pts.) as part of the climate adaptation planning process.

PE7_7.3 Action: Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience (6 pts.) for the completion of a Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool.

PE7_7.2 & 7.4 Action: Climate Adaptation Plan (15 pts.) for creating a community-developed climate adaptation and resilience vision statement (3 pts.) and the completion of a climate adaptation plan with a comprehensive scope that covers all relevant climate hazards for the entire geographic area of the community (12 pts.).

[Adoption of Canaan CARP – The Town passed a resolution on August 12, 2024]

FOR 2025, waiting to hear back about grant for **PE7 Culverts and Dams**

[Road/Stream Crossing Update – The application for a HREP Stewardship Grant was submitted and awards are expected to be announced this fall.]

d. PE 9: Inform and Inspire the Public

CURRENT

1. **PE9 Climate Change Education and Outreach** (Lindsey Strehlau-Howay/Will): 4 pts

- a. Lindsey from Cornell Cooperative Extension is working on creating website information that will go on the town's Emergency Management Page, and monthly posts for Facebook and Instagram for one year. She has created a website template.
- b. Lindsey will meet and work with Christine for social media and Heather for the website.
- c. The town passed a resolution to allow this work to be done.

- d. The Town has two Facebook pages, one for the highway department and one for the Town. The Canaan Climate Smart Task Force also has a Facebook page monitored by Marion. Nick Adams set up an Instagram page for the town.
- e. Lindsey has some questions that she needs the committee to answer. We will put that on the agenda for the October meeting.
- f. The town has two people dealing with emergency preparation: Elijah Faulkner and Eddie Sanchez
- g. Lindsey will be doing training for the town emergency management team.

7. PARTNERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION GRANTS 2024-2025:

- a. Accepting proposals in the categories of forest health and pollinator habitat projects. They also want to know how we will deal with deer browse. Grants are from \$1000-50,000
- b. Dylan will submit a proposal to include mulch, and the production and installation of the pollinator education sign that Marion designed (with previous money)
- c. Maybe it could include getting rid of invasive species in the back of the field
 - i. Dylan is trying to get a quote from Trillium Invasive Species contractor.
 - ii. Deadline to submit a proposal is October 25.

8. WATER CHESTNUT REMOVAL

- 1. Columbia County Soil and Water is working on securing funding to help towns with water chestnut removal.
- 2. Brenda found a contractor who can remove them with a harvester.
- 3. Dylan will keep us up to date on this.

9. STONYKILL CLEAN UP

- 1. this coming weekend, Sunday, 11-3

10. NEXT MEETING:

- 1. October 15, 7 pm, Town Hall