

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Canaan, NY | Climate Smart Task Force
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Participants:

- Task Force Members: Victoria Mills, Elyse Mason, Becky Meier, Tom Potter
 - Regrets: Marion Bolognesi, Will Powers (Board Liaison)
- Outside Contributors: Tara Donadio (CDRPC), Brenda Adams (Town Supervisor), Nick Adams (Volunteer/Note taker)

Approval of February minutes

Victoria – Amendment to minutes, solar installation will be done in spring, heat pumps late March/early April.

Victoria will send minutes to Heather for posting on town website

Update on NYSERDA-funded solar and heat pump projects

- Projects highlighted in the town newsletter
- Solar: forms submitted to NYSERDA to be part of NY-Sun rebate program
 - Action: VM and Brenda will talk to High Peaks Solar about how to use credits
- Heat pump project will begin March 26th

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Path to Silver

- Closer to Silver than previously thought. Could potentially earn enough points (300) to apply in July. Next opportunity after that is in January 2026.
- Reviewed spreadsheet of action steps:
 - Bright green is what's completed, 110 points
 - Yellow is in consideration, 163 points
 - 20 points, Row 12, resolution from task force showing meeting minutes, list of members, i.e. a proof of current activity.
 - 10points, Row 13: requires written appointment of coordinators.
 - 3 points, Row 15, partnerships of local government with neighboring municipalities or other groups: Potential candidates are the repair café, Hudson Valley Partners for Climate Action grant (removal of invasive species, planting native plants), participation on Columbia County Climate Task Force (recent meeting minutes qualifies), participation in 2024 Climate Carnival.
 - 4 points, Row 23, Improvement of interior lighting: Much/all of the lighting has already been upgraded to LEDs.

- 5 points for all projects, Row 4, HVAC upgrades: Need information, find guidelines in Tara's document. The buildings need 100% of square footage heated by the HVAC system to be counted.
- 3 points, Row 34, Advanced vehicles: Provide documentation of town vehicles. A picture of the registration is sufficient, Brenda will send to Elyse.
- 19 points, Row 48, Heat pump installation: Need to document the installation of the heat pumps. Victoria will take the lead. There should be signage showcasing the solar and heat pumps (counts of education requirement). Will do a press release for the heat pumps and solar project
- 4 points, Row 70, Community Repair, submit documentation supporting evidence for two community repair events. Our repair café events suffice. Becky tasked with this.
- 20 points, Row 74: Comprehensive plan with sustainability elements. Comp. plan will not be ready in time (Dec. 2025 is earliest possible).
- 8 points, Row 86, EV charger: proof the station is still in use. Charger currently inoperable due to software inadequacies, new one will cost \$7k. Town may not have money available.
- 8 points, Row 90, Natural resources inventory. This is already done; it just needs to be dated.
- 37 points total, Rows 94, 95, 96, Climate Vulnerability Assessment, Climate Resilience and Climate Adaptation Plans: CARP plan needs to be uploaded with proof it was adopted. Brenda will send town resolution to Elyse.
- 4 points, Row 97, Columbia County Hazard Mitigation Plan going to public comment. Upload when this is adopted in May or June.
- 4 points mitigation engagement, 4 points for reduction engagement Row 129: Climate change education and engagement, submit two outreach and engagement actions. Track engagement – who's interested and who's learning. Elyse will work with Becky on this (1–2-page memo on everything we have done).
- 3 points, Row 132, Social media outreach. Town has been posting content provided by Lindsey from CCE on its social media channel since January.
- Row 131, 133: Public Communication. Tom will do these
- These actions add up to 273 points. Need 27 more to meet the goal (300).
 - Inventory of culverts is a potential project. The project should be to increase culvert size (which Canaan has done).
 - Grant from Soil and Water to remove water chestnuts
 - Town working with Lynkwell to potentially get fast chargers at B3 truck stop. Two stations with four heads, total of 14 points
 - Look into 37, 38, 19. Exterior lighting that aren't streetlights.

New members

- We could use more members to get things done
- Task force is limited to 7 people (2 seats are vacant)
- Town board needs to appoint new members
- First step is to gather a list of interested parties

Repair Café

- Repair café in Austerlitz on March 29th
- Task force members to attend and spread the word

Community Garden Day, Invasive species removal

- Garden day is May 17th. Dylan Cipkowski will lead. Steven will supply mulch.
- Tree cutting over tennis and basketball courts
- Members should invite friends to attend. There will be donuts!!!
- Invasives: Combine community activity around invasive species removal with professional removal of water chestnuts, planned for June-September (waiting to schedule). Bob Conners has volunteered to lead invasives events.

Victoria moves to adjourn at 8:16

Next meeting is April 15th at 7pm.