

Canaan Climate Smart Task Force Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 – 7PM

In attendance

Task Force Members:

- Victoria Mills
- Elyse Mason
- Marion Bolognesi
- Becky Meier

Outside Contributors:

- Tara Donadio (Capital District Regional Planning Commission)
- Brenda Adams (Town Supervisor)
- Nick Adams (Volunteer/note taker)

Approval of March meeting minutes

Motion to approve - Becky, Elyse seconds.

Clean Energy Communities: Update on NYSERDA-funded projects

- All heat pumps (11) are installed at the town hall. Crew did a great job installing them.
 - Town will have a use policy to keep the heat/AC at a set temperature and maximize efficiency
 - Elyse will upload signed contract to NYSERDA portal
- Solar installation will begin on Monday, April 28
- Task Force to prepare a press release announcing both projects once complete
- No town money spent on these projects (all funding from NYSERDA)

Updates on action items for the CSC Path to Silver

- Rows 12 & 13, 30 points combined
 - Row 12, Elyse to upload two most recent meeting minutes. Website shows members and their roles (e.g., resident, board member)
 - Row 13, Resolution appointing Victoria as Coordinator – Elyse will upload
- Row 15, 3 points, Collaboration with other entities.
 - Need to complete documentation.

- Meeting minutes/memorandum/report detailing how local gov't collaborated with an outside partner
 - Becky and Elyse will do this
- Row 24, 5 points, HVAC upgrades. Victoria working on this with Paul from Ridgeline. Estimating total square footage of covered areas.
 - Need square footage of town library and highway garage (total square footage: office AND garage). Points are awarded based on portion of total square footage conditioned by heat pumps.
 - Town hall 100%, Library 100%, Highway Garage ____%
 - Square footage for the HW garage (where heat pumps were installed in office) must include the garage bays even if bays are not conditioned space.
 - Brenda will ask Stephen Van Tassel for total square footage.
- Row 34, 3 points, Brenda sent insurance info proving town use of the electric vehicle. Elyse to upload to the portal.
- Row 48, 19 points, Education about heat pumps and solar project. Tara has a template for this. Marion will do the flyer. Two in the town hall, one at the library, and one at the garage.
- Row 70, 3 points, Community Repair
 - Becky will attend the Community Repair association Wednesday April 23rd to plan repair cafes in both New Lebanon and Canaan.
 - Need to coordinate the repairers for Canaan Day on June 14th
 - Repair café will follow the same hours as Canaan Day
 - Create a separate flyer specifically for the repair cafe
 - Elyse to upload documentation for the repair café last September.
- Row 90, 8 points, Natural Resources inventory.
 - Dylan signed and placed in Task Force shared folder; Elyse to upload.
- All planned actions total 273 points, still short of 300+ points needed for Silver.
 - Discuss additional actions needed to get above 300 at next CSTF meeting.
 - Still shooting for July 11th deadline. If not, next opportunity is January 2026.

Upcoming Planned Events

- **Community Garden Day (May 17)**
 - Dylan Cipkowski is leading this.
- **Repair Café (June 14)**
 - See above, Row 70
 - Marion reaching out to contacts to see if they can do Canaan Day
 - Becky is coordinating with the community repair association

- **Invasive species removal (date TBD)**
 - Grant for water chestnut removal. Timing depends on the blooming cycle of the plant. Have the permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and DEC.
 - There are also tons of invasive species in Stoddard Park. Would be nice to do another event to identify and remove these as well

New Members of CSTF: agree on timeline and process

- Brenda and Victoria will draft a notice for the town Facebook page
- Elyse has experience recruiting for the Ghent Climate Smart Task Force, will share a flyer to advertise positions. Flyer can be posted to Facebook and Town Newsletter.
- Applicants apply with the Town Supervisor
- Requirements: motivation to participate and complete tasks.

CDRPC survey on large-scale solar

- Victoria to complete survey with input from Brenda and share responses with CSTF.
- Canaan has limited area for large scale solar; local zoning laws are also a challenge.

Victoria moves to adjourn at 8:06pm

Next meeting: May 20th at 7pm