

Canaan Climate Smart Task Force Meeting

May 20th, 2025 – 7PM

In attendance

Task Force Members: Tom Potter, Elyse Mason, Becky Meier

Outside Contributors: Tara Donadio (CDRPC), Brenda Adams (Town Supervisor), Nick Adams (Volunteer/note taker)

Approval of March meeting minutes

Clean Energy Communities (CEC): Update on NYSERDA-funded projects

Solar install has been completed at highway garage. Midway through installation, we found the transformer did not have proper capacity. Brenda called a contact at NYSEG and was able to fast-track the upgrade/installation.

Next steps:

- Contact solar installer to complete the work and bring the system online.
- Press release on solar and heat pump projects (Victoria to draft)
- Confirm value of solar credits. (Likely 10¢/kwh for satellite municipal buildings through Value of Distributed Energy Resources (follow-up with Tara & NYSEG)

Tangential:

- Will there be a sales tax on electricity at EV chargers as there is on gasoline? When we stop selling gasoline where will that tax revenue come from?
- Standardizing the rates for fast chargers should be advocated. Fast charger rates are set by the owner and don't necessarily reflect the actual cost of electricity.

Climate Smart Communities (CSC): "Path to Silver" updates on action items.

Updates on planned tasks

- Row 70, Community Repair, Becky will share documentation (info from Austerlitz etc) with Elyse, who will upload the information.
 - The community day repair café flyer is about to go out
 - Finalizing floor plan and number of workers
- Rows 94, 95, 96: 37 points. CARP documentation needs to be uploaded. Brenda/her assistant will send this info to Elyse who will upload it.
- Row 97, 4 points, Hazard mitigation plan, this is in process but it's possible it will be delayed past July. This plan is a town plan that's part of a greater county plan. Therefore, it must be put through process at the county level. Currently out of the

town's hands. Updates from public hearing, county committee (earliest June), approval by board of supervisor. Brenda will email to see if it can be sped up.

Potential points to get us to 300

- Completed 151. Total planned 147 minus 4 due to the hazard plan, so 143. Total completed/planned are 294. Need to find at least 6 more points to get above 300.
- Row 38, 4 potential points from upgrading light fixtures to LED. On all town property (garage, town hall, library, park). Counts as a percentage of the total number of light fixtures upgraded. Need to provide invoices showing a majority of fixtures have been upgraded.
- Row 107, 2-14 points, PE7 Riparian Buffers. Installing a stream buffer in town hall parking lot would count, town would need to coordinate with DEC. This could be a large project.
- Row 39, 4 points, Environmental purchasing policy - 1 point for each policy. Town policies regarding energy, recycling, etc. Tom will acquire the policies and deliver them to Brenda.
- Row 48, (9 points?) Education/demonstration of heat pumps and solar installation.
- Most likely path would be Rows 38, 39, and 48 for a total of 16-25 points putting us at 310 to 319, above the threshold for silver for a possible July 11th submission.

Report-outs on upcoming events

May 17th Community Garden Day

- Nine attendees: Dylan, Ariana (and Theo!), Elyse, Tom, Becky, Bob, Brenda, Nick
- Becky and Bob will continue with bishop's weed
- We will all continue to periodically check on the garden

Upcoming Repair Café @ Canaan Community Day, June 14th, 1-4 PM

- See above, Row 70

Climate Smart table at Community Day

- Flyer to sign up people for the community garden - Nick
- Recruitment flyer for volunteers and task force members - Nick
- Poster (easel) Written materials detailing this year's accomplishments (solar, heat pumps, path to silver) – Elyse and Nick will work on this
- Flyer for Stoddard Park sign fundraiser (need to raise \$1000) – Nick/Brenda
- Elyse will be at the table; Tom may also come.
- Potential activity would be seed bombs to hand out.

- Tom will check out CLC things for kids to hand out.
- Nick will update the climate smart website. Contact Nick to add items to the site.

Invasive species removal (date TBD)

- Want to have a community cleanup for this. To be clear this is not the water chestnuts, that will be a mechanical process. This will hopefully be an on-land clean-up of bittersweet, multi-flora rose, etc.
- Have a flyer for this at community day at the Climate Smart tent
- Date still TBD, would like to coordinate the date with Dylan to coincide with water chestnut removal

STATUS: New CSCTF Members recruitment (5 mins)

- Will need to recruit for new members and volunteers for special projects
- Recruitment poster at climate smart table

Canaan Comprehensive Plan Survey update

- Need to discuss what elements from climate smart should be on the comp plan.
Can do this at community day.

Pre-community day meeting to be held June 6 at Blueberry Hill @ 9am

Next meeting: June 17th at 7pm

Adjourned at 8:32