

Canaan Climate Smart Task Force Meeting January 20th, 2026 – 7PM

In attendance

Task Force Members:

- Victoria Mills – Co-Chair, Town Board Liason
- Elyse Mason – Co-Chair
- Tom Potter
- Marion Bolognesi
- Nick Adams

Outside Contributors:

- Tara Donadio

Approval of December meeting minutes

Marion motion to approve, Victoria seconds.

Updates for the new year

- We have new leadership: Co-Chairs Elyse and Victoria!
- The task force is still pursuing CSC Silver Certification but on an extended timeline. The next deadline is May 22.
- In addition, we will pursue local climate actions like climate resilience, conservation, community education and more as priorities for the year.

Website update

- The site still needs a couple more links added but is substantially complete.
- Follow up with town site developer and figure out how we would update the CCSTF site after integration with Town of Canaan site.
- Follow up with Heather and get insert the link to our new site on town page.
- Follow up with Brenda and see if it would be possible to maintain our separate site if we can provide/source its funding (costs \$25/month)
- Add climate smart flyers and socials to the website

Path to Silver (309 points, May 22nd deadline)

- PE3 Action: Interior lighting upgrades
 - Mark is installing the new light bulbs in the highway garage and library
 - Nick will help if necessary
- PE5 Action: Green Purchasing Communities
 - Approved in December
 - Follow up with Brenda to see if any town departments need help with policy rollout

- PE5 Waste Reduction Education Campaign
 - Becky has several ideas regarding content and rollout which we will follow-up on at the next meeting
 - Elyse, Marion, and Becky will pick up the conversation on this over the next month
 - Repost newsletter article and flyer on socials and website
- PE6 Action: Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements
 - Worth 21 points.
 - We can apply for these points once the final plan is approved by the Town Board.
- PE6 Action: NY Stretch Energy Code
 - NY Stretch Code, more stringent than baseline energy code for NY State, 10 points are available.
 - Reach out to New Lebanon to learn more and determine if this would be right for Canaan.
- PE6 Action: Electric Vehicle Charging Station
 - Usage rates are needed to prove use and achieve all points
 - Follow up with Brenda/Lynkwell to get app for tracking usage
- PE11 Action: Case Studies
 - There are new points available through completing and submitting GHG mitigation and/or climate adaptation case studies about projects in the town. Together these offer a maximum of 8 points.
- Other actions completed
 - We will also earn points for CARP, Culverts and Dams, and Shade Structure policies

Climate Resilience

- Heat Emergency Plan
 - First step is to identify vulnerable communities
 - Second, identify the process for a heat emergency, resources, utility cooperation, communication to residents, location of cooling centers
 - Make the data/charts in the plan specific to Canaan
 - Set up a subcommittee to work on the heat emergency plan. Marion interested in leading. Compare to the emergency preparedness plan and see what else (if anything) should be implemented.
- CARP implementation
 - Step one, read the plan and identify what needs to be done.
 - All members should re-read the document to help do this.

Communication/Education

- Waste Reduction Campaign
 - See above

- Earth Day
 - The county is planning a tree planting event for each town to get a free tree for Earth Day. To qualify, we need to submit an application.
 - We could double up community garden day and the earth day tree planting, although this may be too early to work the garden. Trash pickup event as well? Check with Dylan and/or Becky.
- Ongoing communication for CCSTF
 - Marion will update our communications through social channels

Columbia County Climate Task Force update

- County Climate Action Plan: They are in the process of creating their plan, our plan will follow

Land Conservation

- Next steps on Highlands Conservation Act
 - CLC's conservation committee is reviewing it
 - The grant requires match in funding – the match does not necessarily have to from town budget.

Funding

- [Municipal ZEV infrastructure grant](#) from DEC
 - Simple reimbursement of 80% of our EV chargers. Deadline for the grant is Feb 27th
 - Elyse and Victoria will meet to discuss this
- DEC will launch a new round of grants in April. The stated purpose is not yet known, but it's possible we would qualify.
- Grant from DEC on community conservation due in February with no match required.

Looking to the future

- A goal for the year ahead is to drive greater engagement with the community.
- Hold more events (e.g. invasive species removal), direct more people to our website, get more people interested in local climate action.

Next Meeting February 24th at 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn at 8:24pm