

Canaan Climate Smart Task Force Meeting

February 24, 2026 – 7pm

In attendance

Task Force Members:

- Victoria Mills – Co-Chair, Town Board Liaison
- Elyse Mason – Co-Chair
- Tom Potter
- Mark Harbick
- Becky Meier
- Nick Adams

Outside Contributors:

- Tara Donadio

Approval of January meeting minutes: Tom moves, Elyse seconds.

Earth Day planning (Elyse)

- Tree planting (decision on species, resources needed, community engagement)
 - The task force recommends the Eastern Redbud; Brenda will be consulted for a final sign-off.
 - Our tree planting and garden clean-up day will be on April 25th at 1-3pm
- Austerlitz is holding an Earth Day event on April 18th 11am-3pm
 - Other neighboring towns will participate, e.g., Ghent, Philmont, Chatham.
 - We want to join the event. Ideas for table include energy efficient lighting, recycling/reusing K-Cups, and other waste reduction opportunities.
- Community garden: combine this with tree-planting on April 25th. Also consider a trash pick-up, location TBD.
- Elyse will email Becky and Mark to discuss details for both Earth Day events.

Waste Reduction Campaign (Becky)

- Becky to email newsletter article on waste reduction to Nick and Marion for posting on the climate smart site and our social channels.
- Integrate waste reduction into Earth Day planning.
- Becky to document campaign activities (past and planned) so we can report on them later.

Land Conservation (Tom)

- CLC has published the [Plan to Conserve Columbia County](#) which indicates most important lands to conserve and includes appendices for each town.
- Include link to the plan on our website (add to list of Reference Documents)
- Tom to ask CLC if they will do a workshop on land conservation opportunities in Canaan, perhaps teaming up with neighboring towns for greater reach.
- CSTF to dedicate a meeting to land conservation after Tom gets back (April 22).

Path to Silver

- Website update (Nick)
 - The site is largely complete, the links are added
 - Tara believes that the site will qualify for PE points
 - Please send your pictures to Nick to be added to the site
 - Schedule a meeting with Brenda regarding the future of the independent site
- Interior lighting upgrades (Mark)
 - The lighting installation largely went well, and the highway crew was very helpful. Big thank you to Harry, John, and Pat.
 - Two of the fluorescent lamps cannot be converted to LEDs
 - For sixteen fixtures, the “tombstones” need to be updated to accept the new bulbs. This will be an additional cost, meet with Brenda to discuss.
- Heat Emergency Plan (Victoria): meeting with Brenda this week to get started.
- Updated Procurement Policy (Victoria) and new Shade Structures Policy (Victoria)
 - The town board passed both resolutions in December
 - Each now must be passed as policies. Victoria meeting with Brenda regarding the wording of the policies. Send any thoughts to Victoria by EOW.

Membership

- Victoria has identified a potential candidate that may be interested in volunteering for the task force, perhaps filling the vacant spot as well. Victoria to meet with candidate to explore interest in participating.

Funding

- Municipal ZEV infrastructure grant: February 27 deadline
 - Ready to submit application to DEC once I have info from Lynkwell.
 - If awarded, the town will receive an \$8000 refund for the EV chargers. Town will be notified in Q3.
- Open Space Conservation Grant: April 15 deadline
 - \$3M grant to purchase land for conservation purposes
 - Need to coordinate with town and determine if the town has interest in purchasing land for conservation, refer to new CLC Conservation Plan
- Upcoming: Community Forest Conservation Grant, CSC grants opening in May, Clean Energy Communities later this year.
- Clean Energy Communities (NYSERDA funding): RFI (survey) being sent out, which Tara will forward soon. This will give us a better idea of the new CEC program.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 17 at 7pm

Adjourned at 8:14pm