

Canaan Climate Smart Task Force Meeting

April 21st, 2026 – 7PM

In attendance

Task Force Members:

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

Outside Contributors:

- Brenda Adams – Town Supervisor
- Tara Donadio – CDRPC
- Eva Dean Welchman

Approval of March meeting minutes: Becky, motion to approve, Elyse seconds

Events

- Austerlitz Earth Day Festival April 19th: debrief
 - Good organization and representation of the climate community
 - Return next year; strengthen outreach to community to improve attendance
- Ideas for future events
 - Advertise 3-4 weeks in advance
 - More interactive activities vs information tables. Interactive survey for climate.
- Canaan Earth Day event April 25th: final planning and promotion
 - Saturday 1-3 pm. Hole is dug, mulch is in park, tree supplements by library
 - Flyer is posted in physical and virtual spaces, email to Christine Wemple
 - Activities: Tree planting, Garden cleanup, Trash pickup
- Canaan Community Day (June 20th) Ideas.
 - Reusable coffee pod demonstration (with working Keurig)
 - Waste reduction: recycling quiz or game, flyers and other information
 - Heat Emergency Plan and sign-up for resident registry and volunteers
 - Hand out Tom's document with resources for residents
- Collaboration with Congregational Church
 - We want to do this!
 - Invite representative to June meeting for further discussion.

Path to Silver

- Comprehensive Plan update
 - Responsibility transferred from Comp Plan Committee to the Town Board
 - Plan will likely move to public hearing in early June
 - Will not be ready by the deadline for silver
- Other actions to clear 300 points ([see tracker](#))
 - We are at 294 points
 - Highway Superintendent helped pay for the lighting upgrades by selling scrap metal. Thank you Harry!
 - Heat emergency plan – to be adopted by Town Board at May 11 meeting
 - Shade structure policy - adopted
 - Green purchasing policy - adopted
 - Website: climatesmartcanaan.org will remain until new town site is live
 - Additional points for case studies:
 - Mitigation measure and adaptation measures case studies
 - Heat pumps, water chestnuts, pollinator gardens
 - Demonstrate at least a 10% reduction in GHG emissions

Communication (discussion) TABLED

- What are our goals?
- How are we reaching people now, and how can we be more effective?

We would like to increase our outreach efforts. This could take several forms like more followers on social media or drawing larger crowds to events. The goal is to get more people engaged in local climate issues.

Looking ahead:

- Energy benchmarking – follow up with Tara in late May/June
- Land conservation
- CARP implementation
- Onboarding document for Climate Smart Task Force

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00 pm