

**MEETING MINUTES FOR:
Town of Aurora Climate Smart Community Task Force**

MEETING DETAILS

Project Manager: Luke Wochensky, Town of Aurora Councilman

Date: 10/18/23

Time: 6:05 pm

Location: Town of Aurora Municipal Building, 575 Oakwood Ave. East Aurora, NY

ATTENDANCE

Present: **Jim Granville-** Town of Aurora Councilman substituting for Luke Wochensky; **Nicole Morris-McLaughlin-** Village resident; member of ACES; **Steve Bjella-** Village resident; **Jeanne Beiter-** Senior Program Manager for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper & Village of East Aurora Planning Board; **Claudia Newton-** ACES Representative; **Susan Russell-** ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; **Hanna Michalek -** East Aurora HS Sustainability Club, Junior member; **Sharon Bachman-** in advisory role from **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

Present via Speaker Phone: **Pat Lally-** East Aurora HS Sustainability Club; **Annika Safford -** Village resident & Student at University of VT, Sustainability & Marketing Program;

Absent: Luke Wochensky-Town of Aurora Councilman; **Lori Borowiak-** Village resident; **Joe McCann-**Town of Aurora Councilman; **Jason Kulaszewski,** UB Regional Institute Clean Energy Coordinator; **Josh McClain -** UB Regional Institute; Sustainability and Resiliency Planner; **Ryan McPherson** Chief Sustainability Officer University at Buffalo; **Jennifer Brazill,** Borderland Festival Organizer; **Jeffrey Shelley-** Environmental Science Instructor East Aurora High School in advisory role as Faculty Student Liaison for EAHS Sustainability Club; **Elizabeth Cassidy-** in advisory role as Aurora Town Code Enforcement Officer

Visitors: Michele/ Bjella- Village Resident & member of Citizens Climate Lobby

I. CALL TO ORDER - 6:05PM

II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- **Clean Energy Community Goals Community Campaigns Scoping Document-** Nicole Morrison McLaughlin led discussion regarding Community Solar and Community Aggregation options. Discussion of differences and benefits. Solar Community Committee members were identified: Claudia Newton, Jeanne Beiter, Nicole Morrison-McLaughlin in advisory role, Pat Lally, Hannah Michalek, Susan Russell (maybe). Nicole will reach out to committee to set up a series of zoom meetings for contractor presentations.
- **Silver Status Certification** - Luke has identified three potential projects for the CSC task force related to community planning:
 - i. Comprehensive Plan w/sustainability elements
 - ii. Smart Growth Policies
 - iii. Safe Routes to School

Due to time considerations, Task Force members will review documents prior to November meeting and make recommendations.

- **NYSERDA FlexTech Program** opportunities: Lori - absent
- **Can & Bottle Return:** This Hamburg company's service was discussed at the Sept. ACES meeting. ACES has historically been handling the recycling of bottles and cans at the Taste of Aurora Festival. There was agreement that the current Taste event is too low on can and bottle consumption to be of probable interest to Can Bottle Return. It was committee's understanding that the Town would consider a proposal that would require event special use permits to have recycling option. Claudia Newton had expressed interest in visiting some of the larger restaurant/bars in the Village for the purpose of informing them of the service available from Hamburg Can & Bottle Return.

- **Website update:** Sue Russell - First draft of website complete. Will reach out to Luke, Sharon Bachman, and Jeanne Beiter for content review in specific areas. She need a Task Force group photo but decided to wait until November meeting when Luke is present.
- **Composting update:** Sue Russell - DEC Grant has been submitted. Awaiting decision. Committee will need to be formed during the winter months to plan for Earth Day Launch if grant is approved.
- **Stretch code update:** Lori - absent
- **Review priority and goals - N/A**

III. OPEN DISCUSSION

IV. CLOSING REMARKS

V. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7: 30 pm

NEXT MEETING: 11/15/23

Minutes submitted by: Susan Russell