

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

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**MEETING DETAILS**

**Project Manager:** Luke Wochensky, Town of Aurora Councilman

**Date:** April 17th, 2024

**Time:** 6:00pm

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

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Luke Wochensky- Town of Aurora Councilman;

**Claudia Newton**- ACES Representative; **Susan Russell**- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; **Pat Lally**- East Aurora HS Sustainability Club; **Sharon Bachman**- in advisory role from Cornell Cooperative Extension; **Michele/Bjella**- Village Resident & member of Citizens Climate Lobby; **Steve Bjella**- Village resident

**Present via Zoom:** **Annika Safford** - Village resident & Student at University of VT, Sustainability & Marketing Program - (\*Note. Unable to connect.)

**Absent:** **Jeanne Beiter**- Senior Program Manager for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper & Village of East Aurora Planning Board; **Joe McCann** - Town of Aurora Councilman; Hanna Michalek - East Aurora HS Sustainability Club, Junior member; **Lori Borowiak**- Village resident; **Nicole Morris-McLaughlin**- Village resident; member of ACES;

**Visitors:** Deb Seeber - Village resident, Jessie Griffis Tree Board Chair, Stephanie Allen, Town resident. Lorenz Schnitzer, Village Resident

**I. CALL TO ORDER - 6:15pm**

**Minutes from March approved.**

**II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

- **Solar Campaign: Luke (only one proposal received - attached)** Results are Consistent with Town of Hamburg. 10 % discount for 25 years, mailings

provided, help with promotion. Recommended by UBRI. Legitimate, regulated by NYSEDA. Luke reports Jason Kulaszewski, UB Regional Institute, Clean Energy Coordinator has some concerns with capacity ability when combined with Hamburg. Deb Seeber cites confusion from previous programs. Pat volunteered to do some research on the company. Luke will set up zoom mtg with company for all to participate in and also a phone call option with Jason. Please have questions!

- **Press Release re: website (article in Advertiser):** Thank you to Michelle for writing- it was published in EA Advertiser.
- **Clean Fleets Inventory:** Luke- It was rejected because one cell was wrong. Jason corrected and it has been resubmitted. Thank you Claudia for your work on this! Solar Campaign document was accepted.
- **CSC Task Force Logo: Sue-** Logo will be option #1 which emphasizes our connection to Town of Aurora; t-shirt choices will be 1 and 2. A table runner will be designed instead of a full table cloth. Luke's brother will make t-shirts at cost. Recommendation is for 100 shirts, organic cotton.
- **Social Media: Annika and Hannah-** Sue will send them logo. They have posts lined up and ready to go for FB and Instagram.
- **Silver Status Certification – planning**
  - Comprehensive plan RFP update- Climate vulnerability assessment and climate smart elements need to be included. In process.
- **Clean Energy Community Goals: Luke-**
  - **Community Campaign – timing and planning**
  - **Energy Audit-** Need to decide which building we want to use for free audit from NYSERDA. Motion to approve Municipal Bldg was approved unanimously.
- **Scout Around June-**
  - *Pat suggests extending to high school students who use bus transport instead of private cars. Can promote via school daily announcements.*
  - *Open discussion about pros and cons of various approaches.*
  - *Luke pointed out that the competition/prizes aspect was very popular last year.*

- *Will Anika be able to handle the tech again?*
- *Claudia volunteers to ask her son for donation from his company SRAM*
- *Deb Seeber will talk to Kickstand Culture*
- *Claudia will ask if the bike committee will be involved*
- *Sue will ask Joel Brandon if Rotary wants to be involved.*
- *Sue suggested that it might not be best to change up the format- could confuse people and sometimes these traditions just need time to build slowly.*

### **III. OPEN DISCUSSION - N/A**

**IV. CLOSING REMARKS** - Sharon announced that a new Climate Smart Community Steward Program has been launched. Sue announced Trash Mob for Saturday, 4/20, 10am-12pm.

**V. ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

Minutes submitted by: Susan Russell