

**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:** 6/19/2024

**Time:** 6:00pm

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

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Luke Wochensky- Town of Aurora Councilman; Joe McCann - Town of Aurora Councilman; Ray Wrazen - Town of Aurora Councilman; Claudia Newton- ACES Representative; Susan Russell- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; Lori Borowiak- Village resident; Pat Lally- East Aurora HS Sustainability Club;

**Present via Zoom:** Annika Safford - Village resident & Student at University of VT, Sustainability & Marketing Program;

**Absent:** Jeffrey Shelley- Environmental Science Instructor, East Aurora High School, in advisory role as Faculty Student Liaison for EAHS Sustainability Club; Jeanne Beiter- Senior Program Manager for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper & Village of East Aurora Planning Board; Jason Kulaszewski, UB Regional Institute, Clean Energy Coordinator; Josh McClain - UB Regional Institute, Sustainability and Resiliency Planner; Sharon Bachman- in advisory role from Cornell Cooperative Extension; Michele/ Bjella- Village Resident & member of Citizens Climate Lobby; Hanna Michalek - East Aurora HS Sustainability Club, Junior member; Steve Bjella- Village resident; Nicole Morris-McLaughlin- Village resident; member of ACES; Elizabeth Cassidy- in advisory role as Aurora Town Code Enforcement Officer;

**Visitor:** Lorenz Schnitzer - Village of East Aurora Resident

**I. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00PM Minutes from May approved unanimously.**

**II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

1. **Solar Campaign update:** preparations for community events and other outreach activities. Claudia and Sue reported:
  - Letter to ACES membership sent- 230 plus members.

- **Senior Center Information Night-** a public information session with PowerMarket is scheduled for June 26th, 6:30pm at the Aurora Senior Center. T-Shirt giveaways for people who sign that evening. We will use the print collateral provided by PowerMarket. Press Release Sent to Advertiser and Bee. Suggestions for future venue: 42 North, Farmer's market; Sue will contact Stonegate Condominiums and Chamber of Commerce.
  - **Co-op Table-** Luke will ask co-op Board for permission to set up an event at the East Aurora Food Co-op.
  - **July 3rd Parade -** We need volunteers to carry logo banner (2), plus others to walk and wear T-shirts, hand out Aurora Solar Savings palm cards. "Climy", our rock star mascot, will also march. Meet at 6pm. Look for information table at ice rink for directions to parade line-up location. The parade is from 6:30pm-7pm. Lori, Claudia, Anika, Sue will come.
2. Building audit update - Luke has completed paperwork for Town Municipal Center & Senior Center. Lori and Lorenz would like to be part of the process.
  3. NYSERDA grant (10k) - Library Heat Pump with Education Component is the favored suggestions. Not sure if it is within budget. Lori suggests that determining the building envelope status would be important to determine if heat pump will perform with the optimal efficiency. Suggestion made to contact Jay Blatner (EA resident) at Capitol Heat for an evaluation. Luke and Joe will follow up.
  4. NYSERDA grant (50k) - once approved have 3 months to implement project. Need project ideas. Can be applied toward library if above \$10K isn't enough. Luke will forward spreadsheet with project suggestions for review by the committee.
  5. Outside funding opportunities- Professional grant writer hired by the town is Robyn Drake. She will speak at August meeting. One grant opportunity will address Hemlock Woolly Agelid in

JP Nicely Park in West Falls where it recently has been spotted.

6. Social Media: Annika has welcome page set up on Instagram and she is asking for followers.
7. Silver Status Certification – no update
8. Comprehensive Plan RFP update and review of PE6 and PE7 -  
Three candidates have been interviewed and pros & cons of each discussed. Climate resiliency has been a key interview subject in interviews..
9. Clean Energy Community Goals – no update
10. Review priority and goals - Joe and Sue still have an interest in pursuing Food Scraps Initiative after the solar campaign and comprehensive plan projects are further along.

**III. OPEN DISCUSSION - Congratulations to Pat Lally on his music scholarship from Music fest and best of luck on his entry into Nazareth College as a music major. He would still like to be part of the Task Force participating remotely from college.**

**IV. CLOSING REMARKS - No meeting in July. Next meeting is August 21st.**

**V. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm**

Minutes submitted by: Susan Russell