

**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:** May 17th, 2023

**Time:** 6:00pm

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

**ATTENDANCE**

***Present:*** Luke Wochensky- Town of Aurora Councilman; Matthew Bourke- UB Regional Institute's CSC Initiative; Susan Russell- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; Claudia Newton- ACES Representative; Sharon Bachman- in advisory role from the Cornell Cooperative Extension; Lori Borowiak- NYSERDA Representative; Annika Safford - Student, University of Vermont, Sustainability & Marketing; Pat Lally- East Aurora HS Sustainability Club; Liz Cassidy, Town of Aurora Building & Code Enforcement

***Present via Zoom:*** Nicole Morris-McLaughlin, Senior Energy Development Specialist, County of Erie

***Absent:*** Jeanne Beiter- Senior Program Manager for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Village of East Aurora Planning Board;

***Visitors:***

Michele/Steve Bjella, Village Resident/member of Citizens Climate Lobby; Sarah Connaughton, Town Resident; Sandra Chelnov, Resident of Holland, member of ACES

**I. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00PM**

## II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- **Bronze Status Certification:** Matt reports status is in good shape. Colleague and he are uploading documentation. Currently at 108 points. Bridge project upload pending will bring total up to 114. Getting priority actions completed are critical. We need 3 in addition to 120 points. (EV Charging Station is the first. GHG inventory is on track to be the 2nd. Complete Streets Policy is going to be 3rd.) Luke has drafted a proposal for #3 and is working with Councilman Snyder. It is now going through code committee review. Highway superintendent Gunner is on board. Different types of roads require different approaches. (Shoulders, sidewalks, culverts, etc) As each road is scheduled for improvement, complete streets recommendations can potentially be incorporated. Next application window for applying for certification is July 7th. Following window is Jan 2024. Currently aiming for July. Flyer for No Drive July can also be submitted for point consideration and possibly Garden Tool Swap event. Decision on Bronze submission should be early to mid-September.
- **GHG inventory update:** Claudia reports that hope is to have report done by end of June to be publicly available on Town website prior to submission. 2021, 2022 date will be available. 2019 will be added later.
- **Consolidated Funding Applications:** July 28th deadline. Luke is looking for volunteer to analyze what opportunities might be a good fit. Nicole has volunteered for this task. (See attachment)
- **Municipal Composting** - Luke and Joe McCann had a successful talk with Erie County on 5/17/23. The county has an active food waste composting site already going at the Alden Correctional Facility and the Town of Aurora will likely be able to take food waste there with no cost or tipping fees. There are still some permissions to be worked out but the hope is that residents can take their food waste to a drop-off point in town (possible locations: Town Highway Garage or Sinking Ponds Yard Waste site, if Village will cooperate) and then the town would transport it weekly to Alden. Future vision: bi-weekly trash pick-up with food waste pickup on the alternate weeks. Advantage is this will not increase trash pick-up budget. Susan will research DEC grants for residential home-use compost buckets/community outreach/education. Possible volunteers: Annika Safford, Sharon Bachman, Michele Bjella, Pat Lally, members of ACES
- **Complete Streets:** Luke reports Complete Streets Policy is going to be 3rd Priority action. Luke has drafted a proposal- working with Councilman Snyder. Now going through code committee review. Highway superintendent Gunner is on board. Different types of roads require different approaches. (Shoulders, sidewalks, culverts, etc) As each road is scheduled for improvement, complete streets recommendations can potentially be incorporated.

- **NYSERDA FlexTech Program opportunities:** Lori reports she has been unable to make progress.
- **No-Vroom July:** Annika- letter to Chamber of Commerce is being drafted. Looking for business sponsorship opportunities. Mileage tracking recommendation from Go Bike is Strava. Google form for self reporting. Link tree created for social media. Jen to meet with Rick Ohler to promote. Still need to figure out how to configure mileage system to raffle tickets. Suggestion: one mile walking and two miles biking gets one raffle ticket.
- **Website update:** Luke reports policy is being reviewed by the Town Attorney regarding group vs/committee policy for inclusion on Town website. Annika has draft prepared for the GHG interactive embed. She has also created a static version.
- **Stretch code update:** Lori reports that stretch code is going through an update to fix some bugs. It is still considered worthwhile to incorporate, despite new NYS Legislation requiring electrification of new buildings 12/21/25 for residential/up to 7 stories; 2028 for commercial and other.
- **Review priority and goals - N/A**

**III. OPEN DISCUSSION** - Liz Cassidy reports that 2024 is next scheduled update for Building Codes and the stretch codes is likely to to be written into NYS energy code for next cycle (about 2026 or 27)

#### **IV. CLOSING REMARKS**

**V. ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Minutes submitted by: Susan Russell

Attached: Consolidated Funding Letter

May 15, 2023

Dear Friend,

I am pleased to announce the New York State Department of State's local government assistance and community development programs are now accepting grant applications through New York's web-based [Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\)](#) portal. This year the Department is dedicating nearly \$27 million to fund transformational and impactful improvements in New York communities through five programs. Funding includes:

- \$16.3 million through our [Local Waterfront Revitalization Program \(LWRP\)](#) to advance community revitalization and climate resiliency priorities to create more accessible, sustainable, and resilient waterfront communities;
- \$4 million through our [Local Government Efficiency Program \(LGE\)](#) to incentivize shared services, consolidation and other efficiency efforts of local governments which will reduce the cost of municipal operations and modernize the delivery of local services, thereby limiting growth in property taxes;
- \$2.5 million through our [Brownfield Opportunity Area Program \(BOA\)](#) to advance the transformation of brownfield, vacant and abandoned sites through area-wide, community-based planning to effectively turn these sites into catalytic properties that facilitates further investments;
- \$2 million through our [Smart Growth Community Planning and Zoning Program \(SGCP\)](#) to assist communities in preparing land use plans and zoning ordinances that integrate smart growth principles which will shape community growth and character; establish land use policies which support smart growth and clean energy principles; and cultivate sustainable economic development;
- \$2 million through our [Smart Growth Countywide Resiliency Program \(CWRP\)](#) to develop countywide plans that address climate change risks and vulnerabilities and identify strategies for planning and implementing projects in a socially, environmentally, fiscally, and economically sustainable way.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the Request for Applications (RFA) for each program you are applying to in its entirety as grant program requirements change from year to year. The Department of State will host live webinars to provide more information on each grant program. The live webinar schedule is as follows:

Program	Date	Time
General Program Overview-LWRP, BOA, SGCP, CWRP	May 24	2:00 pm
Local Government Efficiency	May 30	10:00 am
LWRP Program Specific	May 31	10:00 am
BOA Program Specific	May 31	10:30 am
SGCP, CWRP Program Specific	June 5	11:00 am

