

## MEETING MINUTES

### Town of Aurora Climate Smart Community Task Force

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#### MEETING DETAILS

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

**Date:** 06-18-2025

**Time:** 6:00pm

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

#### ATTENDANCE

**Present:** **Luke Wochensky**- Town of Aurora Council member; **Susan Russell**- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; **Lori Borowiak**- Village resident; **Steve Bjella**- Village resident; **Annika Safford** - Village resident, graduate of University of VT, Sustainability & Marketing Program;

#### **Present via Zoom:**

**Absent:** **Jeanne Beiter**- Senior Program Manager for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper & Village of East Aurora Planning Board; **Claudia Newton**- ACES Representative; **Michele/ Bjella**- Village Resident & member of Citizens Climate Lobby; **Sharon Bachman**- in advisory role from Cornell Cooperative Extension;

#### **Visitors:**

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

#### **II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION**

**1) Luke will be away for the summer. Joe McCann will cover for July and August meetings.**

**2) Town Budget: Luke-** Budget item ideas needed for our Task Force for the new budget year. Suggestions: Secretary, Website Domain renewal, Printing Costs, T-shirts, Repair Cafe Funding. Boosting Facebook ads, waste management training seminars, Event Shuttle, etc. Please consider other ideas and submit for August meeting.

**3) Scoot Around June: Annika/Steve-** So far Participation is lagging based on visual inspection of store raffle containers. Some concern expressed over poor visibility placement of the containers. Ideas shared regarding possible reasons for lag: no event last year may have caused a loss in momentum; difficulty in finding the best way(s) to

advertise. (Annika wrote an article for the Advertiser and has posted on the CSC Instagram account, but it has a limited following of about 70; Suggestions for next year include possible kick-off event such as a neighborhood “Slow Roll”, closer work with the EA Chamber of Commerce, large banners for the RR viaducts.

**4) 4th of July:** Luke asked if the CSC Task Force will march in parade again this year. Ideas: have the Town drive the new EV truck and Zero Turn Mower in the parade; “Climy” could ride in the truck; Sue offered to purchase “Smarties” candy again for tossing into the crowd; Annika could possible design signs to hang on the vehicles. Sue will email all Task Force members to gauge interest and ability to march and also invite High School Sustainability Club members via Jeff Shelly, and ACES. Luke will check with town regarding vehicles.

**Dare to Repair Cafe: Sue-** Lissa from the Buffalo Tool Library and Sue will meet on Tuesday at the Senior Center to review the event lay out; Question: can we find out if the moveable wall curtain will be repaired by the event on July 26th? Luke says the money has been budgeted. Sue will check with Donna to see if repair is on schedule. Also, Sue gave Annika, Lori, Luke, and Steve posters for distribution around town. Sue provided Lissa with a list of potential community volunteers. All volunteers have been contacted by Sue and encouraged to sign up at the Tool Library’s website. As of last week, none had followed through, so Lissa will reach out the them personally. The Tool Library has also sent out press releases to the Bee And Advertiser today. Justin from the Bee called Sue today to confirm some details and requested a quote. Sue provided the following: “We’re very excited to bring the Dare to Repair Cafe to our town residents and hope this is the first of many. Repairing broken items reduces landfill waste, saves money, and it feels good! “Don’t ditch it, fix it” is the antidote for our throw away, disposable society. Fixing things is back in style! We hope to see many of our residents take advantage of this free event, and are grateful to all the volunteer “fixers” who will be donating their time to repair and teach.”

**General Comprehensive Plan: Sue/Ray-** The Community Profile Draft, Comprehensive Plan 5 Goal Strategies, and Land Use Category drafts have been completed and are awaiting commentary from all committee members. Sue has submitted her comments and thoughts regarding climate-related sections. The next committee meeting will be held in August, and the 2nd public hearing will be held in August as well, date TBD.

**III. ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

**NEXT MEETING: July 16th, 2025      6:00pm**

Minutes submitted by: Susan Russell

