

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

MEETING DETAILS

Project Manager: Luke Wochensky, Town of Aurora Councilman

Date: 11/16/2022

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Town of Aurora Municipal Building
575 Oakwood Ave.
East Aurora, NY 14052

II. ATTENDANCE

Present:

Luke Wochensky- Town of Aurora Councilman

Matthew Bourke- UB Regional Institute's Climate Smart Communities Initiative

Nicole Morris-McLaughlin- Senior Energy Development Specialist, County of Erie.
Town of Aurora Resident

Jeanne Beiter- Senior Program Manager for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Town of
Aurora Resident, Village of East Aurora Planning Board

Claudia Newton- ACES Representative, Town of Aurora Resident

Susan Russell- ACES Representative, Village of East Aurora Resident, Village of East
Aurora Zoning Board

Jeffrey Shelley- Environmental Science Instructor, East Aurora High School in an
advisory role as the High School Student Liaison

Emma Dolan- President of Sustainability Club, East Aurora High School

Pat Lally- East Aurora High School Sustainability Club

Catie Jantzi- East Aurora High School Sustainability Club

Absent:

Ryan McPherson, Chief Sustainability Officer, University at Buffalo, Town of Aurora
Resident

Elizabeth Cassidy- in advisory role as the Town Code Enforcement Officer

Sharon Bachman- in advisory role (subject to change to member) as a representative
from the Cornell Cooperative Extension

Lori Borowiak- EA Village resident and NYSERDA

Jennifer Brazill, Borderland Festival Organizer

Visitor:

Michele Bjella- Village Resident & member of Citizens Climate Lobby.

III. CALL TO ORDER - Welcome and Introduction of committee members

IV. OLD BUSINESS - N/A (First committee meeting)

V. NEW BUSINESS -

Presentation by Matt Burke- overview of NYS Climate Smart Communities Program

Discussion of Town of Aurora Comprehensive Plan - last one was in 2002 and didn't pass. Town Board is currently working on an updated version.

Shared discussion of group & individual expectations/visions/goals. Contributions included visions for planning, community education, equity, focus groups.

Role of high school participants - will consist of one junior vote, one senior vote, 2 voting members. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Meeting frequency- suggestion of monthly meeting confirmed, 3rd Weds of every month. Next meeting date: 12/21/22 at 6pm.

Matt Bourke: Review of Town's previous actions toward Bronze level certification:

82 Competed Actions; 20 PE1, 35 PE3, 6 PE5, 9 PE6 , 12 PE7. **Ongoing** 20 PE1, **Potential** 189 Potential total of 291. Bronze is 120 Silver is 300

Nicole Morris-McLaughlin: Discussion of Community Aggregation strategy at the town level for competitive clean energy plan for Town residents.

Matt Bourke: Recommends committee members use shared folder for communication. Google preferred by group.

Actions for next meeting:

Review of actions items completed and ideas for next-stage actions. Everyone instructed to review criteria on CSC website (Certification Portal/User Guide) prior to next meeting.

Jeanne Beiter to try to arrange speaker from Ithaca.

Nicole Morris-McLaughlin to arrange for Community Aggregation speaker for date in the new calendar year.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Submitted by: Susan Russell