

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Aurora Climate Smart Community Task Force

MEETING DETAILS

Project Manager: Luke Wochensky, Town of Aurora Councilman

Date: 07/17/2025

Time: 6:00pm

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: **Joe McCann** substituting for **Luke Wochensky** - Town of Aurora Council member; **Claudia Newton**- ACES Representative and Town of Aurora resident; **Susan Russell**- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; **Lori Borowiak**- Village resident; **Sharon Bachman**- in advisory role from Cornell Cooperative Extension; **Michele/ Bjella**- Village Resident & member of Citizens Climate Lobby; **Steve Bjella**- Village resident; **Annika Safford** - Village resident & graduate from 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

Visitors: Douglas Crow- Planning Board Chair

I. CALL TO ORDER - 6:02PM

II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

1. Budget Items: Finalization of Wishlist: Joe- Please submit budget suggestions to Luke Wochensky and copy Joe McCann.
- **Steve**- Scoot Around June Committee met and will be submitting quotes for banners, signage, etc. Approximate budget \$1500-\$3K. Will also investigate cost for Slow Roll Police Escort.
 - **Sue**- Presented ideas regarding secretary, website annual domain cost, Town/Village Shuttle, Everything Electric Expo, Dare to Repair Cafe, Town Sustainability Director. Submitted to Luke and will copy Joe McCann.
 - **Annika & Steve**: Bike and walking infrastructure - bike racks. Joe pointed out that all town properties currently have bike racks.

2. **Clean Fleets Inventory Update:** Claudia - No progress to report. Will be following up this week with Liz Deviso.
3. **Social Media:** Annika - Will be posting Repair Cafe this week on Instagram.
4. **Silver Status Certification** – Comprehensive plan RfP update: Sue- The Community Profile Draft, Comprehensive Plan 5 Goal Strategies, and Land Use Category drafts have been completed and submitted commentary from all committee members. The final draft is being completed in preparation for the 2nd public hearing to be held in Sept., date TBD. The next committee meeting will be held on August 12th. General discussion followed regarding observations and topics arising from community surveys, GCP discussions, and solar siting concerns.
5. **Scout Around June Review** - Annika used EPA calculator data to determine Carbon savings. Debriefed on what went well and how to improve next year. Goals for 2026: Increase committee size; physical jars for tickets at businesses were confusing to the public, so next year will just be QR code; more outreach to businesses next year and try to integrate bike safety education. Annika sent a very creative “thank you for participating” newsletter to all participants and sponsors. It included relevant data from this year’s event, a survey invitation, and publicized other local bike & hike events. The CSC website is also updated with current combined data from 2023-present. Joe suggests coordinate with police captain for education/bike rodeo. Steve and Annika would also like to map existing bike racks in Village.
6. **Review priority and goals - Michelle-** discussed tree inventory system as future goal modeled after Village of Lancaster’s system. Also shared that tree moratorium progress in the Village. Suggestion made that she ask that this discussion be placed on the Sept meeting agenda with Sharon providing supporting info on funding sources.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION - Dare to Repair Cafe - Sue- July 26th, 11am-2pm at the Senior Center. Volunteers from Task Force and ACES will be assisting the Buffalo Tool Library. Sue will reach out with reminders for all this week.

Next Meeting- Sept 17th 6pm.

IV. CLOSING REMARKS

V. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Minutes submitted by: Susan Russell