

## 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: 04/16/2025

Time: 6:00pm

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

#### ATTENDANCE

Present: Luke Wochensky- Town of Aurora Council member; Steve Bjella- Village resident; Susan Russell- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; , Michele Bjella, Claudia Newton, , John Hughes, Sharon Bachman

#### I. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00PM II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- It's Game Night!: Sue- 4/7/25 Game Night with the UB Regional Institute was a success with 55 in attendance representing the Town Board, ZBA, Planning, Open Space Committee, Rural Outreach Center, East Aurora Christian Church, East Aurora Co-op, Library, ACES, 2 teams from EA High School, 4 local business representatives, and the Aurora Democrats.

Thanks and photos were sent to all participating teams.

- Scoot Around June Update: Steve- business' have been contacted to ask if they would like to donate to Scoot around June (thanks Luke, Michele, Annika, and Steve)
- Repair Cafe: Sue- Invoice for Town's contribution emailed to Luke Wochensky on 4/7/25. First organizing committee meeting will be held April 29th at 6pm at the Mandala School- one 1/2 hr prior to the ACES monthly meeting. Lori Borowiak to speak with EA High School BOCES to ascertain interest; Ray Wrazen to speak with local Hardware stores to do the same; possible interest from 2 engineers at Moog identified by Darren Cotton (Buffalo Dare to Repair).
- Grant season: Luke- salt barn and highway facilities. The Town is looking at a variety of water protection grants for the salt barn.

- Natural Resource Inventory Update: Ray - The Town has received graphs from Erie County and the Open Space committee will evaluate for future use.
- Community Solar Update: Luke- We hit our next level of 60, but there are about 100 applications started and not completed, move from Halfmoon to Chenango). The company said they will be reaching out to folks who haven't completed the application.
- Fleet Planning Assessment: Luke/Claudia- Cadmus Group. There is long range planning of the fleet as the Town transitions to a Green fleet. Claudia is taking the lead on this project. A picture will be taken in the near future of the electric fleet with the committee.
- One Region Forward Event: Luke- May 21, 2025 (see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/local-climate-action-forum-tickets-1310479893639?aff=oddtcreator> - Luke)
- Potential Solar Project Update: Luke- Solar by CIR Luke will be meeting with them April 22 at 1:00p.m.
- Comprehensive Plan Update: Ray/Sue- Please see attached documents. Hard copies also available at meeting for review. The 3 documents are:
  - 1)Stakeholder Interview Summary Report
  - 2) Public Survey Results
  - 3) Public Workshop Summary Results: (107 attended and 27 used online workshop form.)
    - a) Data highlights some tension between need for preservation of rural character and culture of the township with the desire?need for more affordable and senior housing.
    - b) Discussed how to use the plan to get Silver Certification points for CSC Program and the Climate Vulnerability Assessment. Will act as a standalone chapter within the General Comprehensive Plan. It will include inventory & analysis of all hazards identified by the our CSC Task Force and in the Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Focus will been the impact

of flooding townwide. Plan is to have the assessment wrapped up in time for the 2nd public workshop in July. The 2 high risk hazards identified in the Erie County 2022 Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan are: Flooding and Utility Failure. The additional risks identified by the CSC Task Force as per our website are: Extreme storm events, Extreme temperature events, Water & Soil impacts, Agriculture, Invasive Species, and Social justice impacts.

c) Also completed: An existing Conditions Report update on Transportation and Municipal Services, Final vision statement, and identification of 6 preliminary focus areas. Sue has hard copies if anyone want to review post-meeting.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION \* Michele brought up the topic of tree inventories in the Town and how it may affect our goal of Silver Status (PE-6 in the state document). \*John discussed speed limits in the Town of Aurora and how it might relate to Silver Status. He will share information he has gathered with Luke. \*Sharon reminded us of the tool donation for Providence Farms on May 6. The event is co-sponsored by Master Gardeners and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

IV. CLOSING REMARKS

V. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm