

MEETING MINUTES FOR: 02/15/2023

Town of Aurora Climate Smart Community Task Force

MEETING DETAILS

Meeting led by Luke Wochensky and Matthew Bourke

Date: 2/15/2023

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Town of Aurora Municipal Building

Present: **Luke Wochensky** - Town of Aurora Councilman; **Matthew Bourke**- UB Regional Institute's CSC Initiative; **Claudia Newton**- ACES Representative; **Lori Borowiak**- Town of Aurora Resident; **Sharon Bachman**- in advisory role from the Cornell Cooperative Extension; **Jeff Shelley**- EAHS teacher and Sustainability Club advisor; **Catie Jantzi**- EAHS Sustainability Club; **Emma Dolan**- EAHS Sustainability Club; **Pat Lally**- EAHS Sustainability Club; **Nicole Morris-McLaughlin**- Senior Energy Development Specialist, County of Erie; **Elizabeth Cassidy**- in advisory role as Aurora Town Code Enforcement Officer; **Anika Safford** (via Zoom)- in college studying sustainability and marketing
Absent: **Joe McCann**- Town of Aurora Councilman; **Jeanne Beiter**- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper; **Ryan McPherson** - Chief Sustainability Officer, University at Buffalo; **Jennifer Brazill**, Borderland organizer

BUSINESS

- Luke and Matt met twice in the last month. They have been updating the CSC point spreadsheet (found at [X CSC Point Totals - Town of Aurora.xlsx](#)) and have documented approximately 100 of the 120 points needed for Bronze. They have the needed “before” photos for the bridge on North Grove and Whaley. Patrick will take an “after” photo at North Grove; Claudia will get Whaley.

-Three priority actions are needed for Bronze certification. 1) One action is already completed - the EV charger installed by the Town. 2) Another is the Government Operations GHG Inventory. We will choose 2021 and 2022 for the two required base years; Claudia will email Luke regarding collection of the data for buildings and streetlights. Liz Deveso of the Highway Department has already submitted data for gas and diesel vehicles; Matt and Claudia and Catie will determine how to report this fuel data
3) A third possible priority action is PE3 Government Building(s) Energy Audit. NYSERDA's Flex Tech program may have money available for this. Lori will gather several quotes for Luke to submit to the Board, and will investigate grant possibilities. If an Audit is deemed too expensive, there are other priority action options.

-NYSERDA may have money from the NY bond act that is available for non-profits (perhaps the ROC?). Perhaps there are possibilities for the EAHS since the Buildings and Grounds head is environmentally conscious.

-Sharon Bachman is organizing a Cornell Climate Stewards program for WNY. The goal is to train volunteers to support the community's CSC actions. Ten weekly sessions will run March through May and will be open to anyone, possible for free. Potential time is Saturdays at noon. If the Town participates this may “count” toward Education actions.

-Jim Malczewski, Erie County District 10 legislator, is pushing a resolution opposing Hocol's proposal to move away from natural gas in buildings. Erie County has already passed this resolution; the Village tabled the resolution; it will soon be presented to the Town Board. Letters from individuals opposing this resolution would be more impactful than those from an organization; perhaps Susan Russell will draft a letter from the CSC Committee for Luke to review.

-Last year's No Drive July could be transformed into this year's No Drive June or No Drive May (same month as No Mow May). An earlier month would mean that kids are still in school and fewer people are out of town. People could take a pledge not to drive within the village, or perhaps earn points for the amount of driving they avoid. Anika will help design a point system. Prizes could include a bike, or tickets to Borderland ... Luke will contact the Village's Bike and Pedestrian Committee about collaborating. Adam Zaremski and others could write supportive articles; Jeff Shelley will present the idea to the EAHS Sustainability Club.

-Luke read Susan's letter suggesting a web page for the Town CSC Committee, rather than a separate website. Susan has offered to help with this; Rob Goller might assist. Anika is good with spreadsheets and is willing to work on displaying the Town's yearly GHG Building Inventories.

-Stretch Code: Sharon will reach out to an expert to present to the Town Board and stakeholders, including the Village Board

OTHER

-**Earth Day:** EAHS student Hannah Michalek has already reserved the Hamlin Park pavilion for Saturday April 22. Luke will reach out to Chief Kruger about a bike ride through the Village. ACES will be there and the County can focus on the Climate Action Plan. There could be a sampling of electric vehicles.

-Matt says a class at UB wants to work on CSC projects. Perhaps they can use the GHG Inventory to create an Action Plan.

-The Town's Open Space Committee would like to work with this committee.

-The County's new Community Climate Action Plan will roll out at a **CCAP Open House March 18** 11am-2pm at D'Youville including food and fun.

Task Assignments:

1. Patrick - corresponding but current photo of N Grove bridge; Claudia - Whaley
2. Matt and Luke- continue updating CSC spreadsheet; Claudia and Luke - building and streetlight GHG data for 2021 and 2022; Matt and Catie and Claudia - fuel data from the Highway Department (Priority Action PE2)
3. Nicole- gather and share information about municipalities, nonprofits and schools to access rebates and financing for installing solar
4. Lori - grant possibilities and quotes for building audits (Priority Action PE3)
5. Sharon - Cornell Climate Stewards program
6. Susan - letter re natural gas resolution
7. Annika - point system for No Drive month; spreadsheet for Town's GHG data
8. Sharon - Stretch Code

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Next meeting: 3/15/23 at 6pm

Submitted by Claudia Newton