

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

MEETING DETAILS

Project Manager: Luke Wochensky, Town of Aurora Councilman

Date: 12/21/2022

Time: 6:00pm

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

II. CALL TO ORDER - 6:05pm

III. ATTENDANCE

Present:

Luke Wochensky- Town of Aurora Councilman; **Joe McCann** - Town of Aurora Councilman; **Matthew Bourke**- UB Regional Institute's CSC Initiative; **Nicole Morris-McLaughlin**- Senior Energy Development Specialist, County of Erie. **Ryan McPherson** - Chief Sustainability Officer, University at Buffalo; **Jeanne Beiter**- Senior Program Manager for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Village of East Aurora Planning Board; **Claudia Newton**- ACES Representative; **Susan Russell**- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; **Pat Lally**- East Aurora HS Sustainability Club; **Emma Dolan**- President of East Aurora HS Sustainability Club

Present via Zoom:

Lori Borowiak- Town of Aurora Resident; **Jennifer Brazill**, Borderland Festival Organizer; **Catie Jantzi**- East Aurora HS Sustainability Club;

Absent: **Jeffrey Shelley**- Environmental Science Instructor, East Aurora High School, Faculty Student Liaison for EAHS Sustainability Club in; **Elizabeth Cassidy**- in advisory role as Aurora Town Code Enforcement Officer; **Sharon Bachman**- in advisory role from the Cornell Cooperative Extension

Visitors:

Michele Bjella- Village Resident/member of Citizens Climate Lobby; **Bob and Darcy Sowyrda**, Village residents & members of ACES; **Juliana Bossi**

OLD BUSINESS -

(1) Matthew Bourke- CSC program goals: NYS portal and specific action points via slide show illustrating overview of path to Bronze Certification (120 points and over 100 possible actions) Review of PE1-PE12 criteria and Town of Aurora's point status. Brief introduction to & overview of the NYS Climate Smart website.

(2) Discussion -

Action points that the CSC would like to prioritize:

(a) Recommendations made from Ryan McPherson, Bob Sowyrda and Claudia Newton to prioritize Government Operations GHG Inventory (priority P2 action) and Government Building Energy Audits (priority P3 action). Recommendation from Matthew Bourke: *Volunteer option of using students from UB to manage this project.*

(b) Recommendation from Nicole Morrison McLaughlin: Plan to codify at local level for de-carbonization of new construction and related projects.

(c) Recommendation from Nicole Morrison McLaughlin for town to adopt and facilitate Community Choice Aggregation for consumer renewable energy options.

(d) Recommendation from Pat Lally: Identify priority issues and map useful 1st steps and toward accomplishing pledge elements.

Goals of CSC in 2023: Recommendations: (1) Attain Bronze Level (120 points and three priority actions) (2) Create road map for attaining Silver Level (300 points and 6 priority actions) (3) Presentations to Village and Town Board and ACES for enhancing community engagement.

V. NEW BUSINESS -

Composting update from EA High School student representatives: Catie Jantzi, Patrick Lally & Emma Dolan

Report is still in progress and will plan update for next meeting.

Suggested Actions for next meeting: (1/18/23 @ 6pm)

(1) Additional suggestions for 2023 Goals. Please submit ideas prior to January meeting via email communications to Luke Wochensky.

(2) Composting presentation from EA High School Student Reps.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm

Submitted by: Susan Russell