

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

MEETING DETAILS

Project Manager: Luke Wochensky, Town of Aurora Councilman

Date: 11/20/2024

Time: 6:00pm

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: **Joe McCann** - Town of Aurora Council member; **Claudia Newton**- ACES Representative; **Susan Russell**- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; **Steve Bjella**- Village resident

Present via Phone: **Annika Safford** - Village resident & Student at University of VT, Sustainability & Marketing Program;

Absent: **Nicole Morris-McLaughlin**- Village resident; member of ACES; **Jeanne Beiter**- Senior Program Manager for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper & Village of East Aurora Planning Board; **Lori Borowiak**- Village resident; **Sharon Bachman**- in advisory role from Cornell Cooperative Extension; **Michele/ Bjella**- Village Resident & member of Citizens Climate Lobby;

Visitors: John Hughes, East Aurora Garden Club & Town Open Space Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00PM

II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

1. Aurora Solar Savings Update: Sue/Claudia-

(a) Our outreach table event took place on 11/8/24 at the East Aurora Co-op Market from 11am-7pm. We were busy all day and received interested, enthusiastic responses.

(b) Still no response from Donna Bodecker at the Senior Center regarding our offer for a tabling event there.

(c) Claudia reached out to the ROC for the same.

(d) Update from Brad Tito @ Power Market: *“We have 40 accounts fully enrolled in the EDPRNA Dickinson project. There are additional residents*

in various stages of the enrollment process who are in the process of being migrated to the C2 Chenango Project. Some have already received emails to this effect, but all will be contacted again soon. We are requesting all such residents to complete their enrollment in the Chenango Project.”

(e) When will the letter to town residents go out? This is perceived as the next most important step. Luke to confirm with Brad.

2. **Scoot-around-June:** form a subcommittee to plan: Steve and Anika are interested. Suggestion from Steve and Anika is to simplify. Suggestion to contact Lorenz Schnitzer, a Cornell Climate Steward, who worked on the project in 2023. **Steve will reach out to Lorenz.**

3. **Comprehensive Plan Update:** Sue-

(a) The Vision/Exercise/Statement representing Task Force values, was completed & submitted by the Oct. deadline. Next meeting will be 12/10/24.

(b) A website has been created by the consulting firm.
<https://townofauroracomplan.com/>

(c) The consultant has also prepared a public survey: The link of the survey is attached below. **PLEASE- everyone on the committee take the survey asap- voice your values!** Anika has been given all the info to post on Instagram. Sue has posted on the CSC website, and will send to all ACES members (200 plus) via monthly digital newsletter, plus FB, Instagram and ACES website.

d) Drive tour with key stakeholders postponed until Spring 2025.

4. **NY Forward and NYSERDA Funding Updates** (WF Library efficiencies is getting solar panels through NYS Forward, electric mower, electric truck purchased through CSC Grants, etc.): Joe

5. **Silver Status and 2025 projects:** Luke/Sue - **2025 Project Ideas:**

Envirofest: Sue-Possible leadership team: Sharon Bachman representing Cornell Cooperative Extension and Anika Safford plus one possible member from ACES, still unconfirmed. Anika has worked in events management for 2 years. ACES has 6 volunteers so far, interested in serving on a committee. A brainstorm list has been sent around and has accumulated interesting ideas and concepts. A call to full ACES membership (200 plus) will go out later this month via digital newsletter. **Sue will circle back to ACES member and Sharon to see if they are still interested in being on leadership team for an Envirofest and send Anika the updated brainstorm sheet.**

Repair Cafe: Sue - Recommended by Jason (UB) as public outreach tool. He referred Sue to Darren Cotton who heads the Buffalo Tool Library and Buffalo Dare to Repair Cafe's. These events have been very successful at community building and landfill waste reduction. 6 members to date from ACES have shown interest in volunteering for such an activity, including one who is willing to allow his repair shop (Russ Miner- Elm St) to be used along with his extensive repair knowledge. A call to full ACES membership (200 plus) will go out later this month via digital newsletter.

6. **Social Media:** Annika- Anika will post the GCP Survey info on Instagram.
7. **Review priority and goals-** According to Jason K., CSC Website section on "Challenges and Opportunities" needs to be prepared in report form to submit toward Silver Certification. ***Who will prepare this report in the form required for submission? Jason? Luke?***

III. Open Discussion - Joe-

(a) Deer Problem; Town Board was approached by Garden Club re: deer population. Board will declare deer a "nuisance" to be eligible to increase number of doe hunting permits. Lyme disease, and impact on forest health &, garden ornamentals are considered factors. Bait and shoot option is being considered in village. State pays to process meat which goes to Feed More WNY.

(b) GoNetSpeed Internet Project - Town does not anticipate having as much tree damage as the village due to less excess tree growth into utility wires.

(c) Not discussed: Natural Resources Inventory. As per Sept 2024 meeting, Ray Wrazen offered to ask the Town Open Space Committee if they could undertake an update of the previous Natural Resources Inventory. An updated inventory would qualify for a priority action toward Silver Certification.

IV. CLOSING REMARKS - Rumor has it that "Climy" might make an appearance at the EA Turkey Trot. (See Below) ***HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!!!***

V. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Next meeting is December 18th at 6pm.

Minutes submitted by: Susan Russell

Town of Aurora Comprehensive Plan Public Survey

The Town of Aurora is creating a Comprehensive Plan to guide future policies on land use, housing, infrastructure, and more, and they need your input! Share your feedback about the Town's challenges, strengths, and opportunities. Your responses to this survey are confidential and will help shape Aurora's future — thank you for participating!

Survey Details

How to Take the Survey:

The survey can be accessed online using the following link or scanning the adjacent QR code:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AuroraCompPlanSurvey>

*Paper copies of the survey are also available at the Town Municipal Building.

Deadline:

Please submit your responses by **January 31st, 2025**

More Information:

For more information, about the plan, visit the project website:
<https://www.townofauroracompplan.com/>

Share Your Thoughts About Your Community Today!



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