

MEETING MINUTES FOR: 1/15/2025
Town of Aurora Climate Smart Community Task Force

MEETING DETAILS

Project Manager: Luke Wochensky, Town of Aurora Councilman

Date: 1/15/2025

Time: 6:00 pm

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: **Luke Wochensky**- Town of Aurora Council member; **Claudia Newton**- ACES Representative; **Susan Russell**- ACES Representative & Village of East Aurora Zoning Board; **Michele/ Bjella**- Village Resident & member of Citizens Climate Lobby; **Steve Bjella**- Village resident; **Lori Borowiak**- Village resident;

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

Absent: **Jeanne Beiter**- Senior Program Manager for Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper & Village of East Aurora Planning Board; **Sharon Bachman**- in advisory role from Cornell Cooperative Extension

Visitors: **John Hughes** - Town resident and member of Town Open Space Committee; **Robbyn Drake** - Grant writer

I. CALL TO ORDER - 6:11PM

II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Robbyn Drake - Grant writer - 2025 opportunities are: (1) National grant for CS Communities. First week of March 2025 submission. Funding for Climate Smart Initiatives. Requires partnership with 3 partners: a government entity, a community organization, and an "Adaptation Professional/Practitioner". (2) NYS Consolidated Funding allocations open in May. They fund steps to assist CS communities striving for Bronze to Silver.

Suggested and discussed priorities included: Solar for Municipal Bldg Roof, Highway Dept Bldg improvement or replacement, Municipal compost/food waste initiative.

Laurie will also send grant info to Luke for forward to Robbyn, regarding 2 additional grant funding opportunities: (1) NYSEERDA's building Cleaner Communities

and (2) Local Waterfront Program from Dept of State that has option for salt barns.

Comp Plan Update: Sue/Ray - Public Meeting scheduled for 2/26/25. Time TBA.
Location: EA High School gym.

National Solar Technologies: discussion - Representative will revisit at Feb mtg. With proposals.

Silver Status path: Luke: Jason to revisit our status either in online mtg or in person, TBA.

Scout around June: Steve & Annika - Annika, Lorenz Schnitzer, and Steve had first planning mtg. Annika reports that committee decision for this year is that the event should be less complex with focus on trips vs. miles. Committee will seek raffles from participating businesses. One entry for signing up, and additional entries can be made at every participating business walked or ridden to. QR codes might be option too but preference after discussion is to stay with paper tickets. Consideration to recruit middle and elementary school students and teachers as well; Online sign up and paper versions will be in town hall and library. Program does not need to be approved by the Town. Link Tree website will not be used. Hyperlink for sign up to be available on website/social media. Timeline is to start reaching out to businesses in March. Advertising in April.

Dare to Repair Cafe: Sue - Ray is contacting Donna at Senior Center to check available dates that correspond with Buffalo's Dare To Repair Mobile Cafe. There are 5 available dates in July and August.

Envirofest: Discussion postponed to Feb mtg.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION

IV. CLOSING REMARKS

V. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm

Minutes submitted by: Susan Russell