

MEETING MINUTES

Town of Aurora Climate Smart Community Task Force

MEETING DETAILS

Project Manager: Luke Wochensky, Town of Aurora Councilman

Date: 03/19/2025

Time: 6:02 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; **Lori Borowiak**- Village resident; **Michele/ Bjella**- Village Resident & member of Citizens Climate Lobby; **Steve Bjella**- Village resident

Present via Zoom: **Annika Safford** - Village resident & Student at University of VT, Sustainability & Marketing Program; **716-949-4561**

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

Visitors: **Kristina Farrell**, Town Resident, **John Hughes** - Town resident,

I. CALL TO ORDER - 6:00PM

II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

1. Overview of To Do List -

- GHG inventor is moving forward. Luke is meeting with UB grad assistant this week to work with CSC on drafting community inventory.
- Leed Bldg certification costs 20K. Will not pursue due to cost.
- We need picture for EA Advertiser of Lightning Ford 150 with Task Force. Luke will send email with suggested evening times. Hopeful rebate from Federal Government will still come through.
- Town negotiated to get a free charging station from Ford at the EA Highway Barn grant applications for charging stations at the Town Community Pool and West Falls are in process.
- Robbyn (grant writer) is pursuing large grant funding for Town Barn replacement on existing site. Largest concern is salt barn and that will require a separate grant.

- Still have not heard back from solar company. John Hughes will send different solar company contact to Luke.
 - Krisitina is offering to help Claudia with refrigerant inventory.
2. **It's Game Night! 4/7/25 6-7:30pm— Sue** - Reports that so far with 2 weeks to go, we have est. 10 teams (40-50 people) representing: EA Library, Town Board, Town ZBA, Town Open Space Committee, EA High School, ROC, EA Co-op, Church-based team, ACES, Aurora Dems? plus 3-4 individuals, Kiwanis and Aurora Democrats. In addition to donated pizza, ACES members are arranging other refreshments and beverages. Donated prizes are all set! The winning team will receive a goody bag with various donated items (coupons, gift cards, drink and ice cream cone tokens, etc) from local businesses. All participants will receive a coupon for the Farmer's Market and a seed paper leaf with our CSC logo on it. Sue suggests that CSC NOT have a team due to "fairness" concerns with the rewarding of prizes. Instead, CSC members could be helpers or members of another team. Sue will start setting up at 4pm. Laurie has volunteered to help. Sue will print out door/direction signs to post for the correct entrance. (Patio)
 3. **Scout around June - Anika** - Reports. Anika and Steve met with Lorenz. Have developed sign up sheet for distribution at Library and Town Municipal Bldg. Steve & Anika have developed letter for businesses. Needs sign up list from Luke from 2 years ago. (Sign-up Genius).
 4. **Dare to Repair Cafe (7/26/25 11am-2pm)** - Sue and ACES member, Jeannet DeJong, attended the Lancaster Dare to Repair Care this month and were very impressed. The event was highly successful and impressively organized. It was a great community builder. Their results:
 - 42 items successfully repaired
 - 79.25% of repairs were successful (Only 4 items went unrepaired, with two needing to order parts and attend again!)
 - 450.1 lbs of potential waste diverted from local landfills
 - \$4,226 saved on replacement costs
 - 3756.5 lbs of carbon offset

We will start holding committee meetings in late April with members from both CSC and ACES. The \$1000 cost is being matched by a combination of donated funds (ACES, private, with Town funds making up the difference- TBD)

Laurie will contact EA Technology/Boces for possible student participation as "fixers".

Continued on Page 2.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION -

1) April 21st-24th. UBRI will be hosting a regional conference and workshop at UB to launch a forum for regional CSC municipal cooperation and information/experience sharing. Goal is to implement program for the 2025 hunting season.

2) John Hughes reports that due to Garden Club efforts, the town and village are working with DEC on deer management plan. Increased hunting permits for antler-less deer that would be given to homeowners to give to hunters of their choice. Luke said Town will be passing a Deer Nuisance Resolution at their next meeting- this will help to implement the policy with the DEC. Goal is to improve woodlot, forest regeneration, habitat improvement. Feed More WNY will use harvested deer. Communication to connect landowners with hunters will be necessary. Village will potentially utilize bait and shoot via the police.

IV. CLOSING REMARKS

V. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 7: 04pm

Minutes submitted by: Susan Russell