

Climate Smart Communities Task Force
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2019

In attendance: Nicola Armacost (Mayor), Dan Lemons (Trustee), Mary Beth Murphy (Village Manager), Haven Colgate (Conservation Commission liaison), Spencer Weart (Energy Working Group liaison), Andrew Welch, Mary Lambert, Allison Waldron, Mohit Chandra, Iris Hiskey Arno, Anjali Chen

1. Appointment of Co-Chairs

The Mayor and Trustee Lemons welcomed the members of the group and the Mayor appointed Andrew Welch and Mary Lambert as Co-Chairs of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force.

2. Introduction and Agenda

The Chairs circulated the agenda for the meeting and asked all present to introduce themselves.

3. Task Force Responsibilities Overview

Andrew explained that the overall goal was for Hastings-on-Hudson to submit an application for Bronze level certification in January 2020 and go for Silver after that. He noted that five communities have attained Silver but only two hold it now. He explained that actions are submitted by a municipality using an online portal. They are then reviewed and approved by the State. Once a community secures certification, it lasts 5 years. If the community does not re-certify, or apply for the next level, the certification is lost. After an application has been submitted, typically it takes 6 to 10 weeks to get feedback from the State, so we are likely to hear in late spring about our January application.

4. CSC Program Overview

Andrew noted that there are 12 pledge elements and each pledge element includes multiple actions that are worth a specific number of points (see: climatesmart.ny.gov/). To achieve Bronze level 120 points are needed, and 300 points are needed for the Silver level. Andrew noted that we already appear to have more than enough points for Bronze but the documentation must be checked and submitted into the NYS CSC portal. Andrew noted that there are multiple opportunities to work in a collaborative way with the State and other communities to achieve more points. He explained that we have applied to work with CAPI and EcoAdapt on two specific programs that are priority actions for Silver status. Andrew encouraged the group to explore the climatesmart.ny.gov website to become familiar with pledge items and individual actions. Each person should identify the ones we should consider working on as group. Andrew explained that there are 2 mandatory actions for Bronze and Silver, as well as 3 priority actions for Bronze and 12 for Silver (of which we will need to do 6). We have enough priority actions for Bronze

but we will need to pay attention to these priority requirements especially when we go for Silver. Andrew noted that funding is available from the State to support the process and larger amounts of funding becomes available as a municipality advances in status (e.g. implementation funding for Silver actions). Andrew noted that all the supporting documentation for Bronze and Silver certified municipalities was available for review on the CSC website for benchmarking purposes.

4. Hastings 2020 Submission Overview

Andrew explained that a CSC google drive has been set up with a checklist that was originally created by Dan Lemons and updated by our intern Levi Matza. We want to institutionalize the actions we are doing, and the checklist is a comprehensive resource of what we've done so far. Tab 2 of the checklist is a record that is being kept by Andrew to document the January 2020 submission. The actions are divided into "current actions" (i.e. items we have already uploaded) and "projected items" (items where documentation must still be collected). For many action items Levi has already gathered documentation, which will be reviewed by Andrew to determine if it is sufficient. The team agreed that the end of the first working week of December will be our deadline for all documentation to be compiled and ready for submission. This means it will have been reviewed by the Task Force and the Village and will have been uploaded into the portal. In early December, we will have a working meeting to review the entire submission.

The team agreed that for the immediate future Andrew will focus on Bronze certification documentation (with support from Spencer, Iris and Alison who agreed to help him with documentation efforts). The remaining members of the Task Force will work on actions that will take longer and are for Silver submission.

Andrew provided some examples of strategic decisions we might take on approaching certain actions. Mayor Armacost stated that while accumulation of points is very important there are actions we may want to pursue because of the principle it represents to us as a community (e.g. no-idling or promoting safe routes to school). The team agreed that it will be a question of allocation of time, where people's passions are and what makes strategic sense.

5. Next Steps

The team agreed to hold a working meeting in two weeks, to review the existing pledge items for Bronze level submission and identify items that are of particular interest to each person to work on for Silver level submission.

Andrew will focus on reviewing the completed action items with support from Spencer, Iris and Alison. Between now and next meeting, Andrew will look at the documentation gathered to date and identify any additional help he needs from the team.

Mary will head the team working towards Silver certification and will identify actions that people might sign up to lead (e.g. there is already a group that wants to move on improving infrastructure for bicycling, a group focused on safe routes to school, and one interested in waste management). Everyone should look all the pledge elements and let Mary know what they are interested in before next meeting.

6. Next Meeting Timeline and Scheduling

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 17, 8 p.m. in the Village Hall Conference Room (if it is available).