

Climate Smart Communities Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2019

In attendance: Andrew Welch, Mohit Chandra, Mary Lambert, Joe Cerretani (HOH Village Clerk/Treasurer/Group Coordinator), Mary Beth (Village Manager), Haven Colgate (Conservation Commission liaison), Allison Woldron, Jean Hammerman, Spencer Weart (Energy Working Group liaison), Iris Hiskey Arno, Anjali Chen (Parks & Recreation Liason), Eileen Quinlan (resident).

### **1. Process/housekeeping**

- CSC website: The village website now has information on the CSC Task Force and a link to the Site from the Conservation Commission site. This is a public site. Meeting agendas will be posted a week before the meetings and minutes will be posted afterwards. Meetings will hopefully be included in BOT announcements.
- Volunteers: Mary would like to reach out to volunteers on the list of interested people on the spreadsheet in the CSC Google drive. Any initiative needing help should contact Mary.
- Emails: To help with keeping track of emails and archiving, please put the name of the action in the subject line or within the email so it can be more easily found.

### **2. Project Plan for Bronze certification**

Andrew said he is still collecting and aggregating information. The December 3 working meeting will be dedicated to reviewing the final submission. This meeting will be two hours long. The plan is to get the final version to the BOT by December 10, so they will have time to review it before their Dec. 17 meeting.

Andrew has a running list of what needs to be done and will be contacting various people for help. The heavy lifting now is reviewing everything in the Google drive. Andrew, Niki, and Mary prioritized the actions and they will be addressed in that order. Andrew is confident about the timeline laid out.

### **3. Silver Certification**

There was some discussion of timeline for silver submission, in particular if we could submit in the Fall of 2020 or whether that was unrealistic. While in general, the bronze

submission is about building infrastructure and planning; the silver is more focused on improving how we do things. For example, we now have a framework for doing a fleet inventory, an emissions inventory, and in the future, these will be integrated into Village procedures. We will have to redo some of our points for Silver submission (get new data, new inventories, etc.), although other Pledge Elements from the bronze submission will count towards Silver.

With input from project owners, Mary will work to develop a Project Plan for Silver submission. Jean pointed out that grant timing and cycles (for grants that repeat year after year) should be taken into consideration in this planning process.

Andrew spoke about joining ICLEI, and what it means to be an ICLEI community, mainly being part of a consortium of municipalities and governments. ICLEI provides training, networking, one to one work, a representative who will come talk to village staff and our committee, give us trainings and webinars, technical assistance on data, submission templates, etc.

#### **4. Updates on Actions**

##### **Safe Routes to School:**

Anjali met with Shashi and Georgia to talk about a safe routes to school strategy. Their first meeting was focused on laying the groundwork and reviewing what needed to be accomplished for Bronze submission.

##### **Energy:**

Spencer spoke about the possibility of points for getting people to put in heat pumps. Hopefully we will have some heat pumps and geothermal installed by the spring. Andrew noted we will get points for working with other communities on initiatives like Solarize and HeatSmart.

Mary suggested that the energy group should think about innovative things they did that might count in the innovation category. Everyone should look at examples of what other towns submitted in this category to get ideas. For example, a new program called Waze carpooling has started up. There are no outside drivers—instead you link up with neighbors to carpool to train station, etc. Someone from Hastings is reaching out to learn more. LED lights outdoor lighting efforts, and water efficient plumbing were also mentioned.

##### **Reducing waste:**

Jean & Haven mentioned the Village Reduce initiative to stop waste through unsubscribing people to catalogues that happened a few years back. They did a small campaign with [cataloguechoice.org](http://cataloguechoice.org), and had a cartoon done. This could be revisited.

**Plans (silver items):**

- Mohit spoke about his work on the heat emergency plan, community climate action plan, climate smart resiliency planning. Volunteer still needed for the climate vulnerability assessment. For the Heat emergency plan (6 points + priority item,), Mohit described that the Plan will define things like heat advisories, warnings, a coordination plan with national weather, and provide actions like cooling centers, pools, fire hydrants, etc. He will start pulling together a first draft and sit with some people to discuss it. He will see what the village already has and document it. He thinks elements are in place already and he can get a first working draft by the end of the year. No certified communities have completed the Plan yet.

Mohit mentioned The Climate Action Plan and The Climate Smart Resiliency Plan are more complicated and will be planned for 2020. Mary Beth attended a resiliency planning meeting. When she gets the output from that meeting she will send it to Mohit. The Village already has a climate plan for the community and another for government operations. Andrew says that CAPI is geared towards government operations and will include climate action and an energy inventory. The Community Climate Action Plan is broader and will have more community involvement.

**Climate Change Education:**

- Haven and Iris brainstormed about climate change education; first step is introducing the topic whenever possible—for example, Haven put a climate change slide in the Hillside Woods presentation
- Haven is coordinating a landscaper event in January. Some ideas: giving landscaper clients option to choose a “low blow” lawn vs. the standard leaf blowers. Haven is making a list of landscapers. Mary cited Town of Quogue, LI as an interesting example of a “green zone” sustainability initiative.
- Iris explained that she and Haven are working on an educational presentation for various village stakeholders—DPW, Parks and Rec, Fire Department, Police, Schools, etc. Another idea is to do a town-wide initiative on food waste reduction, which could include schools, stores, restaurants, and all residents.
- Mary met with Barb Prisament to discuss a eco / green vendor fair for the spring around Earth Day. Next step is to meet with Allison, Haven, and Hillside parents to kick off planning.

**Website & Social Media:**

- Allison will work on the website. She aims to insert climate change as a concept where relevant. She’s looking to potentially collapse duplication on website. She met with Elisa to document recycling, etc. and with Haven to suggest changes, consolidate, and clarify the website where needed. As for social media, most towns just have a CSC FB page.

Allison brought up whether to use the existing town FB page or create a new one dedicated to climate. Haven explained people sign up for texts from the village or village/mayor emails and suggested perhaps we might want a campaign to encourage people to sign up for emergency alerts.

**CAPI:** Mary is researching CAPI to understand its implications for silver. If we've been accepted into CAPI, the Program starts June/July 2020. We will participate in a consortium of villages working on climate action plans, emissions reporting, and perhaps also attempting to become Climate Smart Communities.

### **5. Next steps/meetings**

November 19 meeting is a regular one-hour meeting at 6:30 p.m., again in the Library as usual. December 3 will be a two-hour bronze submission review meeting (6:00-8:00 p.m.) The more eyes, the better, so everyone is welcome. A projector would be useful for that meeting. Mohit to bring. Andrew will contact people for what he needs in the next two weeks.