Draft
Minutes from HOH CSC Task Force meeting on March 16, 2022, 6:00 PM ET, virtual meeting

1. Approval of Minutes from the February CSC task force meeting & Note Taker

The minutes were approved by the task force. A volunteer offered to take notes.

2. CAP Editor-in-chief Help for Subcommittees

CSC Task Force Member Lauren Matthews will lead the Editor-in-Chief effort for the CAP. Lauren suggested subcommittees could start by incorporating new ideas and existing documents into the ICLEI template and they should share other CAP that members believe are well-done and should be used as a benchmark. The new role will entail coordinating the editing and leading a public meeting for review of the CAP.

A short discussion was conducted about working with a designer for the layout once the draft is complete. A suggestion was made to make the report interactive and available on-line to make it user friendly for the public.

Subcommittee Reports

3. Transportation Subcommittee status report

The committee reported no further meetings since February, but it will meet next week. The task force then discussed this subcommittee’s feedback regarding drafting the CAP including the need to review and tighten up the CAP report.

Next, a discussion ensued regarding public input on the draft CAP as part of the upcoming Earth Month events. A separate meeting to organize such a public input meeting will be needed to develop the agenda, format, effective techniques and need for a moderator. Kale from ICLEI was suggested as the ideal facilitator.

4. Climate Adaptation Subcommittee status report

The committee didn’t meet this month, but will do so soon. The subcommittee presented an update of progress with the Hillside Rain Garden Initiative: A successful agreement has been reached with the school and their contractors on The Hillside Raingarden initiative. The school is exempt from local review and only required NY State approval, which did not require all drainage to be contained on-site. The school addition will require a 20-foot wide, asphalt paved access drive, which will further increase the project’s impervious surface area. The suggestion to install an open cell prepared grass surface, which compared to asphalt, is cheaper, easier to install, and better helps contain stormwater runoff, was not acceptable to the local fire department. The paved fire access will drain into swales, planted with tall grasses, and feed into rain gardens. Pollinator plant species would be an ideal selection for the rain garden plantings and recommendations for contacts with the Hastings Pollinator Group were made.
Incorporating a stormwater neighborhood walk-around into the upcoming Earth Month activities was discussed as a good means to conduct public education on the importance of stormwater management.

Concern over land slumping including the displacement of a shed near the Cropsey studio was raised. As this is private property, it is not considered a matter for the Village, but one for the private property owner. However, if there is a “hazard” to the community, the Village has tools to step in and remediate the conditions.

5. Building Subcommittee status report

The committee had been developing solutions that could be implemented immediately and is now working on their matrix and developing other areas to address. The main categories will likely be education and access regarding heat pumps, solar panels, and conservation techniques. It was noted that advances in solar technology may provide opportunities that were not previously available with other village initiatives. Development of individual homeowner tips on home insulation-how and where-water conservation techniques and alternatives to gas blowers were discussed.

6. Other business

There will be excellent opportunities to focus on community education this spring. The Village Spring Thing will be held on Sunday, May 15 from noon to 4. Vendors from green energy and landscape companies will be invited to set up tables and talk to the public. Representatives will be sought from a wide range of fields including Energy Smart Homes, Heat Pumps, Geothermal, Solar panels, and green landscaping companies.