

VOK CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

7PM on SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

REMOTE via ZOOM Video Conference

ATTENDING:

Bill Mancini (Chairman), Ann Birckmayer, Aileen Leventon, Sandra Tolosa

Tara Donadio, Sustainability Planner (CRPC), Rich Phillips (Village Trustee).

Community Members: Larry Waite (Zero Waste), Astrid Montagano,

CURBSIDE WEED SPRAY:

A. Leventon has researched and distributed information to the committee regarding alternatives. She will prepare a summary to be forwarded to the Mayor.

COMPOSTING:

B. Mancini reported that one of the composters purchased has been installed at the Kinderhook Memorial Library. It will be used as part of the library garden program and as part of future composting workshops in collaboration with the Library and the Cornell Cooperative Extension. He also reported that composting aids (ROTTWHEELERS) have been purchased for distribution to participants of the workshops and other related events.

LETTERS TO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

B. Mancini reported that, in connection with a request from the Columbia County Environmental Council, he had mailed a letter on behalf of the Task Force in support of Columbia County pledging to become a Climate Smart Community. Copies had been sent to committee members earlier. He reported that similar letters of support were sent by the Village Trustees and the Kinderhook Town Board. He will attempt to obtain copies and share with the Task Force.

FARMERS MARKET:

B. Mancini reported that the community outreach group, **Here 4 You**, has assisted in distributing reusable bags purchased in collaboration with the Friends of the Library to donors at the Farmers' Market. D. Weir of **Here 4 You** has agreed to also distribute flyers that we prepare relating to environmental issues and sustainability. B. Mancini requested that Task Force members submit such items and he will forward to Ms. Weir.

BUDGET REPORT:

Beginning balance as of August 1 was \$4,124.45. With the purchase of the composting "ROTTWHEELERS" on September 1, the ending balance is \$3,908.85. The current fiscal year ends May 31, 2021.

CCA UPDATE:

B. Mancini noted that implementation of the Capital District Community Choice Aggregation program is being delayed at this time. MEGA representatives stated that energy markets are volatile at this time. They are continuing to monitor energy markets and will apprise the Village Trustees of “any regulatory changes impacting CCA.”

CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY:

T. Donadio reported that NYSERDA is planning on launching a new round of grants for the Clean Energy Community program. She will keep the Task Force updated as additional information is made available.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS:

L. Waite from the County’s Zero Waste organization spoke about his group’s work with the County Solid Waste department on developing a plan for reducing solid waste.

There was a discussion focusing on Certification as a Climate Smart Community. B. Mancini stated that he has been updating the portal and asked all members to review and feel free to add to it. He will give access to new members, A Birckmayer and S. Tolosa.

There was a discussion of using social media outlets to promote sustainability topics members may want to share with the community.

A. Birckmayer commented on the problem of uncovered trucks transporting ensilage through Village streets. She will share her research with the Task Force. Trustee Phillips proposed preparing a formal statement to the mayor about this issue.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday October 13 7 p.m. (Village Hall or via ZOOM TBD)