

## **CSCTF Report to the Village of Kinderhook Board of Trustees**

**March 8, 2023**

The Task Force met on February 14<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall. Attendees included Task Force members Warren Applegate, Ann Birckmayer and Bill Mancini. Also in attendance were Trustee/liaison Susan Patterson, CDRPC Senior Planner Tara Donadio and residents Rich Phillips and Jim De Joia.

### **Climate Smart Communities Certification:**

There was discussion of the submission of our application to the Department of Environmental Conservation for bronze certification in the Climate Smart Communities program. The application requested approval of 31 actions worth 228 points.

On Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the DEC sent an e-mail notification that the Village's application had been approved. Approval was based on the completion of 26 separate actions totaling 167 points. The Task Force will review the DEC's comments regarding 5 actions worth 61 points that were not initially approved and revise them for a future submission for Silver status. Bronze certification will help to increase the Village's position when applying for grants from New York State in the future. The DEC is expected to provide a press release shortly regarding certification.

### **Interior Lighting and Street light Upgrades**

The Task Force agreed to advise the Board to go forward with an interior lighting assessment in order to upgrade the lighting in the Village Municipal buildings. Trustee Patterson will contact National Grid which offers a free assessment for upgrades including estimated costs. We also agreed that the Village should obtain a cost and savings analysis for its street lights. The Village had received an analysis from National Grid that included options to convert and purchase the lights and one to simply have them converted. Recently, RealTerm Energy contacted Trustee Patterson with a similar conversion proposal. Both analyses would be at no cost to the Village. We believe that The Board should seriously consider having these assessments done as part of its future planning initiative. The long term cost savings in electric costs would be substantial.

### **HEAT SMART Campaign**

We continue to collaborate with the County Task force in its efforts to promote the HEATSMART campaign. This is part of NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Leadership program. With the installation of heat pumps by five residents or businesses, the Village will be eligible for a \$5,000 award. Additionally, it will receive 200 points in the leadership program. We currently have 1,500. By earning 3,000 points the Village will be eligible for an additional \$10,000.

### **Community Solar Campaign**

Ms. Birckmayer inquired about the status of the community solar subscriptions for residents; I reached out to both Solstice and Astral Power and requested an update for Village subscribers regarding their service. Their responses were similar, either the solar farms where the subscriptions are assigned are not "live" as yet or they are waiting for National Grid to complete its connection to the farms. Solstice did report that a few of their subscribers should be receiving credits.

### **Earth Day Event**

We plan on having an Earth Day event on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will include a Dash for Trash and an e-recycling in collaboration with the Kinderhook Runners' Club and the Kinderhook Memorial Library. We will also offer plastic and battery recycling and possibly a food scrap composting bin. We would like to reserve the Village Square on that date from 9AM until noon.