

VOK CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE
JUNE 11, 2019

ATTENDING: Bill Mancini (chairman), James Dunham (mayor), Warren Applegate, Aileen Leventon, Tara Donadio - Sustainability Planner (CRPC), Ann Birckmayer - community

STATUS OF AWARD DISBURSEMENT

B. Mancini reported Village needs to email a letter of commitment for both solar projects (Firehouse and DPW). When monies are secured, Village will begin bidding process for vendors

TASK FORCE VISIBILITY AT VILLAGE EVENTS AND FARMERS' MARKET

- Task Force sponsored re-useable bag program at Farmers' Market well received by patrons and vendors. Detailed discussion of possible Task Force outreach efforts in future -- all requiring time and volunteers. A. Birckmayer and W. Applegate to discuss logistics with Renee Shur, Economic Director. A. Leventon urged that vendors at Village sponsored events display sustainability practices.
- Village might add recycling bins on Village Green.
- W. Applegate reported that Task Force has been invited to participate in a public forum August 18 at the library featuring presentation by speaker from the Columbia County Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby.
- Birckmayer and W. Applegate reported on meeting with library director May 29 to begin plans for a Meatless Mondays community campaign to begin early 2020.

WATERVLIET ORGANIC WASTE PROJECT VISIT (WOW)

W. Applegate reported that logistics for this visit are near completion. Visit should occur in about two weeks.

BENCHMARKING DATA COLLECTION

B. Mancini plans to update current Village energy statistics especially to establish baselines for anticipated energy savings as the solarization projects and boiler conversion in Village Hall are anticipated to demonstrate energy savings for the Village.

CLIMATE SMART PORTAL

B. Mancini reported that as a current designated Clean Energy Community we need to update and report our most recent activities in order to qualify as a Climate Smart Community. Beyond the branding opportunity this designation would bring, the Village would be in an improved position to apply for sustainability grants. Budget considerations for the Village for 2020 should recognize and anticipate the matching funds needed to apply for many of these grants which could save the Village considerably.

B. Mancini also noted that via the Town of Kinderhook Task Force he is aware that there might be an opportunity for some joint ventures in street light conversions. T. Donadio will send information addressing program costs for both buy back or direct purchase of lighting from National Grid.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)

Noting that some local communities may be poised to enter CCA contracts in the near future, there was general discussion about educating the Village Board of Trustees and the community at large about CCA soon. Thus, if an opportunity for the Village to join a CCA contract became apparent, the community would be able to decide more quickly than if the community needed basic information at that time.

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY JULY 9, 2019 7 P.M.