

VOK CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE MINUTES

June 16, 2020 via ZOOM conference

ATTENDING:

Bill Mancini (Chair.), Ann Birckmayer, Aileen Leventon, Sandra Tolosa, Tara Donadio, Sustainability Planner (CDRPC), Rich Phillips (VOK Trustee), Community Members: Anthony Dvarskas, Astrid Montagano and Stephen Jensen.)

CCA:

B. Mancini reported that MEGA is proceeding with phase two of the Capital Region's CCA program. In a conversation with Katie Vescio of MEGA, he was told that the process is going at a slower pace than originally planned prior to the Corona virus outbreak in NY. MEGA will continue to work with suppliers and monitor energy pricing while allowing the municipalities to address their current situation relating to the virus. There was also a discussion of the community solar project currently being constructed on State Route 9 by East Light Partners. It was noted that community solar offers residents an alternative to the CCA.

Composting:

Two home composters were purchased through the Town of Bethlehem's composter and rain barrel sale. They will be delivered in mid-July. At this time, it is planned to use one in partnership with the Kinderhook Memorial Library's gardening programs. The other will be used in demonstrating the value of home composting at informational and educational events in the Village.

Reusable Bags:

250 branded reusable bags have been purchased in cooperation with the Friends of the Kinderhook Memorial Library. Half of them will be used by the library for customers' book distribution. Half will be distributed at the Farmers' Market. Some of these bags will be distributed in partnership with the Village's "Here 4 You" group as they collect food and monetary donation for the Valatie Food Pantry at the Farmers' Market this summer.

Water Conservation:

A. Leventon and S. Tolosa presented ideas on how conserve water. With the current water restriction in the Village, they have agreed to provide information on water conservation through local social media such as Next Door Kinderhook. S. Tolosa also offered ideas for conserving/reusing paper products.

Climate Smart Community:

T. Donadio reported that the Columbia County Environmental Management Council is pursuing the idea of having the County pledge to become a Climate Smart Community Member. She suggested that our committee members write letters of support to the County's Board of Supervisors and to the EMC.

Community Forest Garden:

A Birckmeyer reported on a Community Forest Garden being established in the Village. Earth Tapestry Farm LLC (ETF) is located at 478 Eichybush Rd. The farm plan is to design, install, and maintain a Forest Garden, where the primary crop plants are perennials mimicking a natural, regenerative forest. Interspersed in the Forest Garden are support plants (mostly legumes, some for forest structure and pollinators, others for animals in general), smaller plots for annual vegetables, wildflowers, medicinal and culinary herbs, cut and culinary flowers, and fiber plants. The overall design uses principles of permaculture and is intended to be drought and pest resistant.

NEXT MEETING: July 14, 7PM location to be announced.