

Sleepy Hollow Environmental Advisory Committee  
and Climate Smart Community Task Force  
Meeting Minutes, June 6, 2022

via zoom

Attendees: Sarah Smiley, Dave Avrin, Char Weigel, Judi Knipsel, Dan Convissor,  
Beverly Jansen, Kirsten McLaughlin

Guests: Martin Smolin, Charles Zekus, Gina Carey, Anne White

1. Food Scrap Recycling Grant (Sarah)

- Review original vs. revised scope, decide on final version
- Original version

Targeted towards larger institutions and grocery stores

Included funds to give away 250 starter kits for free or reduce costs at \$10 for 500 starter kits

\* Revisions include

Money for videographer to promote food scrap recycling

Graphic designer & printing for mailing to residents

Handing out reusable shopping bags

\* Discussion on final version

- \* Remove grocery stores and reusable shopping bags we could re-allocate

- \* \$4600 to graphic designer and videographer

\$1000 for 4 videos - 2 in spanish/2 in english

Drop off video

Compost at home video

There is a video booth that is underutilized at school. We could ask a high school videographer and have high school students do the video. They can earn community credits for this and we will fund costs

\* Graphic designer & printing for mailing to residents

Kirsten will contact the graphic designer

Sarah will contact the village to find out about efficient postal delivery

Sarah will get cost of printing

\* Update to 200 starter kits

Anne suggested bringing the outreach to the high school - connect with a teacher that could incorporate this into a lesson plan and include giving some starter kits to kids

\* Gina volunteered to write the copy for the food scrap promo materials

- Who wants to write content for outreach material?

2. Waste Reduction Education Campaign (Gina)

\* Nick is graduating and we will need a new liaison

- \* Gina shared that his legacy will include organizing the waste reduction next steps

\* How can this complement the Food Scrap Recycling Grant (or vice versa)?

- \* Gina volunteered to work on the education for waste reduction

3. SHEAC Search Committee (Dave)

\* Dave is proposing to form a search committee to encourage people to want to be appointed by the BOT and mayor

\* Terms are 2,3, and 4 year terms

\* Similar to CSC work and state requires an environmental advisory committee of sorts

- \* Success in invasive plant education, waste management

\* There were 2 co chairs and 5 standing committee members

- \* Need 2 chairs
- \* Sarah proposed someone putting together a blurb and Sarah will send to Paula
- \* Anne suggests including a list of things that SHEAC is working on to engage additional people
  - \* Alternative transportation
  - \* Open space management
  - \* Food scraps
  - \* Alternative energy
  - \* Invasive species
- \* Min of 2 people on the tree committee are supposed to be from SHEAC
- \* Open Space Committee was given assignments by the village and worked with consultants hired by the village, example was the river walk, design of the bridge over the railroad, walk through the new riverside park that is opening mid Julie, Devries park, the statue at the traffic island, and the village common (east parcel), public art
- \* How can there be more involvement between SHEAC and other committees?
  - \* Kersten Harries is liaison with the Planning Board

#### 4. Proposed Village resolutions (Kirsten)

- \* CSC presented actions to BOT that would lead us to Silver status, aiming for low-hanging fruit alongside larger projects.
- \* Wrote proposal that includes: purchasing renewable energy, LED streetlights conversion (w/deadline), facilities convert to non-fossil fuel options when replacing equipment, select solar installer for village projects, active recycling program for muni bldgs (incl. Food scraps) and public spaces and events, promote food scrap drop off with local site, climate action webpage.
- \* Present at work session in 2 weeks, will see if they keep deadlines in them or not.
- \* Dave - they might ask about associated costs.
- \* Kirsten will send a copy to the group along with the minutes

#### 5. Climate Action Plan (CAP) update (Sarah)

- \* Village awarded the grant. Sarah is working with Fiona the grant writer. We are in the contract stage with the state. The finalized contract will allow SH to issue the RFP for a consultant to issue the CAP
- \* Then we can engage the CSC on implementation

#### 6. Energy Smart Homes / state policy updates (Sarah)

- \* Alternatives to heating your home with fossil fuels
- \* The official webinars arranged by Sustainable Westchester are now over
- \* Sarah has been involved in renewable heat legislation
  - \* One major victory was that a law was passed allowing utility companies to provide geothermal as an alternative to gas.
  - \* This creates a pathway for utility companies to change their business model
  - \* Another victory was that buildings can now incorporate geothermal into renovations
- \* Martin had suggested switching gas to solar at Kendall
  - \* This fall, for next year's fall the board will put money in to studying the switch
  - \* In the meantime the principal of solar westchester spoke with the head of Kendall maintenance and is now proposing options to Kendall
  - \* Is there anything SHEAC/CSC can do to help?
    - \* Tomorrow evening there is a work session on solar panels and crosswalks
- \* Charles - James House as a historic building cannot put solar panels but geothermal could work

7. Potential CEC grant (\$5k from Grid Rewards)

- \* Think about for the next meeting

8. Next meeting

- \* In person at Cortland street plaza on Beekman Ave on July 11th

9. New Business (Martin)

- \* Creating a natural meadow at Kendall

- \* A member of TEAC did a walk around and is working with the Kendall facilities