

February 18th, 2021 CSC Meeting
Minutes

Committee Members in attendance: Christina Bohnsack, Matthew Mercier, Claudia Keel, Adriana Beltrani, Rose Wax, Jan Borchert, Julia Shanbrom, Norman Mintz, Tracy Martin, Laura Sink, Garrett Montgomery
Observing: Kaare Christian,

Old Business: Subcommittee reports

Green House Gas Data Collection: Data mining is almost complete, with Matt and Jan collecting electric, gas/diesel, propane, and wastewater use at town hall. Next steps will be how to move forward with benchmarking future data.

Energy Audit: Laura Sink gave us an update on how to proceed with an energy audit for our government buildings. The committee reached out to Flex Tech, who provides 50% of the cost for these assessments, possibly more. Might be a 6-month process. Still waiting on an estimate, but will be good to do as it will provide data in order to justify future upgrades.

The board will hold a workshop on March 9th about solar in town, primarily on possible updating of our zoning laws around commercial solar. We hope the unified solar permit might be adopted at this time. Garrett will bring information to the planning board for input to bring to the board.

Waste management: Reviewed first action in PE 5 and agreed to come up with a plan to reduce waste town wide. Each member will be reviewing a few materials listed on CSC website and will report their findings at the next meeting.

New Business

Christina gave an update on Local Champions

Unlikely we will apply for Bronze this summer. We can only apply three times a year, so we will apply in January 2022. The next round of CSC funding is in July so we can use June as a grant application month.

Christina, Matthew, Kaare, possibly Rob, Janet, Joyce will start work in early March on a certification assessment where a Cornell Cooperative Extension representative brings us through each of the over 100 possible actions and we discuss feasibility. We can likely finish this in 2 months.

Christina created a new Seminars folder in our shared drive with a number of Seminars on Climate Work, trainings, workshops, talks etc. Folks are encouraged to add to this folder.

Clean Energy Communities is back. A 5K nonmatching grant is available to communities who complete four high impact action items, then communities can work to earn points to unlock

further funding opportunities of up to 30K. Our EV station will no longer count, but benchmarking with GHG counts. There is a folder in the drive with more information.

In June, there will be a workshop with the [Regenesis Group](#) where we can bring 2-3 stakeholders from town. They are a group that works on composing a “story of place.” An approach that involves talking to the community to see what they care about and integrating our plans around those talks. More in the Seminar folder.

Christina, Kaare, Julia, and Tracy will work on our Website. The town will pass resolution to make it official and we’ll get points for this.

Christina asked everyone to keep track of their hours they’re working on this. It may count retroactively. Also encouraged everyone to investigate what other towns are doing in CSC, and that Columbia County has also taken the CSC pledge.

We agreed to meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Next meeting is March 18th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.