

October 21, 2021 CSC Meeting  
Minutes

*Committee Members in attendance: Christina Bohnsack, Matthew Mercier, Julia Shanbrom, Jan Borchert, Claudia Keel, Rose Wax,*

*Members of the public: Wendy Fieser*

*Observing: Kaare Christian*

### **Old Business:**

September Minutes approved.

Germantown just received a Greenway Grant to improve Ro Jan picnic area, which will power a wi-fi and phone charger. There will be an education kiosk, a bike repair kit, and a staircase will be built down to the tent platforms. There will be separate meetings for this project, both on staircase building and kiosk. Email Christina if you're interested.

We are now a Clean Energy Committee, as certified by the NYSERDA and will receive a grant of \$5000. We'll have discussion on how to spend the money.

### **Subcommittee reports**

**GHG:** Mattie and Austin have been great in assisting us to get Portfolio Manger updated, and data for 2021 is now being uploaded.

**Energy Audit:** We met with Tracy's friend Morgan, who gave us advice on a potential audit. He suggested a Level 2 audit may not be worth it for the town, and that Level 1 might suffice, although Tara Donadio from Capital Region Planning says Level 2. Now that we have a CEC grant using this as our match may be an option. There are also rumors that an audit was conducted in 2008, so Joyce is pulling minutes to see if this happened.

Stretch Code has a good shot of passing. There will be presentation at the November 9th Board meeting.

### **Waste Management:**

- A) Organic Waste Management. Hoping to publish the Organics magna plan by the end of the year. There is a clear action on what the plan needs to include. They're looking at G-town comp plan and make recommendations on what we'd like to see in town around food waste, composting, and education. Columbia County has started a piolet program with compost, but you must have a community garden. We're looking into compost pick-up. The final plan can be quite loose,

B) Education—Rose and Tracy are talking to Pippa of GDAC in the process of figuring out next year's essay contest topic, which will likely with climate.

Matt met with the Columbia County Task Force, and the Community Solar Campaign will be submitting RFP to various companies. This may be a model for us if we decide to do one in the future.

### **New Business**

Ann Marie and Norman are stepping down from the committee

Norman and Melanie Mintz are taking up a fundraising effort to try and buy Bard's land for sale behind the Parsonage. Anyone interested in this effort should contact them.

We've gone from 13 members to roughly 8, so let's think about what parts of the community are underrepresented. We can do a targeted recruitment in December.

Culverts and Dams: Town Board will draft a letter to Cornel Corporation Extension who will do a NEW survey of our dams and culvert.

Jan presented on the Community GHG report, which he compiled and organized on his own. The county did a report in 2010, and we are allowed to use for CSC points since our community is mentioned. It will be posted for public viewing.

### **CEC \$5K Grant:**

It can used for \$10K Energy Audit as the town's match, but we may have done an Audit in 2008.

We can offset the town's energy bills for 3 years if they switch to \$100 renewable energy. It might be a \$1700 a year increase, depending on what we pay per kwh.

A sustainability fund. Might be better use of the 10K grant.

Energy upgrades to Sewar Plant—this might be for a later time.

Anthony mentioned the refrigerators in all municipal buildings are 20-30 year old and need to be replaced. Jan mentioned a sense device we could purchase that would measure the energy.

We might be able to do one of these projects in tandem with 100% renewable energy

We may have a table for the Holiday Glow. TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

