

May 26th 2022 CSC Meeting
Minutes

Committee Members in attendance: Christina Bohnsack, Matthew Mercier, Jan Borchert, Juila Shanbrom, Tracy Martin, Claudia Keel

Observing: Kaare Christian.

April Minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Waste

We had our launch of the compost program on Earth Day at the Transfer Station, and shared our waste guide with Jolene Race to see if they can use our signage countywide. We also met with the social worker at the school since they want to do a composting program. We'll be looking to assist them with setting up a program in the pre-K program. We're also reaching out to Camp Palatine to do a composting program.

This summer we're looking to complete the Organics Management Plan and a Residential Organic Waste Program. We're also building a Hard to Recycle list that we will publish on our website.

Education

The turnout for the contest wasn't what we hoped, so there is room for improvement there next year. The prompt may have been too vague.

Energy Audits

Matthew has been a squeaky wheel with NYPA regarding the FOIA request he filed in the spring, but we should still expect 2-3 months response time. We'll wait until we receive this to take any further action.

Data Report

Austin Sullivan updated our Benchmarking data for 2021, so we're up to date. Now we just need to share screenshots of the reports and Portfolio Manager with CEC and we'll qualify for Advanced Reporting, another 200 points.

Now that we have benchmarking data for 12 months and the town accounts have been switched over to community solar it will allow for an additional 500 via Clean Energy Upgrades. Hopefully our data wizard Jan can transform this into a report.

We'll also get another 700 points for the new heat pumps at the Activity Building, as long as we make educational signage illustrating the differences between our former use of gas versus the new electricity usage. There are additional CSC points for this action.

The timing for the Activity Building renovation will likely be after summer.

COUNTY UPDATE

The Solar Campaign is still ongoing and will continue until the end of the year, but we've reached our 10 household threshold and will receive another \$5000 grant from NYSERDA.

The Climate Carnival is happening on Saturday July 16th. Tistrya from New Lebanon has asked other towns to help take clothing donations for the free store. We will ask the Germantown Library if they are willing to take donations of adult clothing, kids items, and shoes. We will need to transport the clothing to the Fairgrounds on Thursday July 14th.

With the Solar Campaign launched, the County Task Force will be focusing on EV charging stations throughout the county, and we may be able to piggyback on that campaign as well.

Complete streets

The Board approved our participation. We're going to invite members of the Planning Board, ZBA, LWRP, CSC, Highway and Fire Department, and Town Board. It's a webinar being offered through the Department of Health and will help us plan better for pedestrian and bike traffic. We have to pick 3 intersections that we'd like improved.

Culverts and Dams

We met on May 3rd with Anthony & George from the Highway Department and Cornell look at all the maps and assess our culverts. It was a productive meeting as George and Anthony were quite helpful. Over the course of the year, Cornell will do all the work to measure, assess our culverts and ONE dam. We have to do two public information sessions. We might table at the Farmer's Market.

New Business

A point for future discussions: What might we do with the \$5000 grant that we get for Community Solar. Christina mentioned “energy saving baskets” with LEDs and draft stoppers, etc. Something that would give back to the community.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM