

January 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 CSC Meeting  
Minutes

*Committee Members in attendance: Christina Bohnsack, Matthew Mercier, Michael Brown, Juila Shanbrom, Wendy Fieser, Tracy Murrin*

*Observing: Kaare Christian.*

June Minutes were approved.

*Old Business:*

### **Waste & Education**

Waste: There have no updates on the Organics Management Plan. The County did get their digester at the Greenport Transfer station and are hoping to start education and promotion around their food scraps program. Wendy Feiser will be the point person

Education: Mike Cotrone and Molly Marquand both expressed interest in joining the committee. Molly has started a garden in the elementary school and is working on a grant for the garden. She wanted to talk about a possibly about doing a composting program with the school. Suggestions are being proposed for what this might look like: worm bins in the classroom, a food scraps project in conjunction with Mike's farm or another farm.

Jolene Race has said the County is not interested in another pick-up location in Germantown, but if the school wanted to get its own bin and then drop the scraps off at the transfer station that would be fine. Molly had suggested talking to teachers about how open they are to this idea, but we need more information before we propose it again. Tracy is also talking to the summer camp about composting

### **COUNTY CSC UPDATE**

The Columbia County CSC Task Force has started a Clean Heating, Cooling & Energy Efficiency Campaign. The campaign has not officially launched yet, but the County has already acquired the 25 sign ups required to receive a grant from NYSERDA. We'll need to brainstorm ideas for the campaign. Matthew is also looking into money for Level 3 chargers.

On the topic of Community Solar, Matthew is still trying to get an explanation out of Neighborhood Sun regarding delays in service. Christina mentioned that

Nelnet out of Albany is covering 100% of people's bills. She'd like to see the County spread the word about this.

### **CULVERTS & DAMS**

The finished report is still not done and it's unclear when it will be. It would be nice if this were done before the Vulnerability Assessment is started.

### **Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Planning**

The meeting with Cornell did not inspire confidence. We're unsure what is expected of us. We've been put into a group with the Western section of Columbia County. Tracy reminded us that the hamlet of Germantown has consistently had water issues, and that our committee should bring this up with the town board. It should be part of Cornell's assessment.

### *New Business*

### **Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign**

Christina is now working for Heat Smart Capital Region Clean. We're going to have a Zoom kick-off meeting with some of the contractors and the towns will promote it. If we do a community campaign even *and* combine it with a Clean Heating & Cooling Demo, we will cross the 3000-point threshold with CEC and be eligible for a \$10,000 grant. We need to look at what the demo needs to be. We will use our previous \$5000 grant to make energy saving gift bags and information packages on what state grants are available for energy efficiency. We hope to do this demo at the end of March before it gets too warm, and so folks can sign up before the summer.

### **Lasher Park**

We're hoping we can set up the Green Revolving Fund in order to purchase a replacement light/windmill to replace the current light, which is wasting a great deal of energy.

**Earth Day:** It's not too early to be thinking about Earth Day. We'll start planning at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

