

Town of Jay Climate Smart Task Force — 05/31/2024, Community Center, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Participants: Knut Sauer (Chair), Wally Walters (Recorder), John Culpepper, Lana Gokey, Tyler Eaton, Robin Licari, Matt Stanley

On-line (Go-To-Meeting): none [although session was recorded]

Absent: Jennifer Perry, Olivia Dwyer, Nancy Bernstein, Katie Culpepper

Guest: Barbara Tam (Keene)

Handouts (email): Agenda

1) Call to Order (Knut S) 3:05 pm.

2) Minutes of 05/02/2024 meeting (Wally W): unanimously approved

3) EV Chargers: (Knut S)

- still awaiting FEMA review of alternate location (from ADK Café to roadside)
 - prior approved grant was for ADK Café location
 - change request submitted and followed-up several times
 - last week FEMA acknowledged receipt, but unclear when to be approved (maybe late June)
 - then it has to be submitted to DEC for approval
- second location (Village Green) awaits 1st location, as DEC has to approve both in a contract
 - then have to have town sign off (maybe late summer)
- DEC heavily backlogged on many actions

4) Municipal Building Greenhouse Gas Reduction: (Discussion led by Knut S)

- Highway Dept garage lights & fixtures replacement by LEDs with NYSERDA support done
- at municipal building, just lights to be replaced
 - will get two quotes before proceeding (June)
- per Nancy B, we'll get some points for all this
- steampipe wrapping estimate is underway

5) Community Campaign Update: Solar: (Knut S) [campaign started Aug 2023]

- potential for 300 points
- Tyler E: contacted 5 solar providers; four have contracts with NYSEG; only one reply so far
 - Meadow company; no one in Jay has undertaken a contract with Meadow in past 12 months
 - households stand to save 10% on electrical power generation charges
 - significant delays occur after sign-up, as providers only expand solar capacity once they have subscribers (an anecdotal experience was 15 months after sign-up in 2020 to get service)
- Knut S: hard to get info on new subscribers
 - we need 10 new subscribers from Jay in order to get 200 points

6) Community Campaign Update: Heat Pumps: (Knut S) [campaign started July 2023]

- can get 500 points; have submitted for 5 new installations

- can get more points for more buyers
- next application opportunity in September, following which grant opportunity amounts drop
- John C: direct source water heaters might be an opportunity
 - Knut S noted these have relatively high cost (~\$2K; may not get tax benefits)
 - need to learn more

7) Community Campaign Update: Electric Vehicles: (Knut S) [campaign started Mar 2024]

- Lana G: four dealers will participate, including Della Group
 - group: discussed prospect to have EVs at energy fair
 - plug-in hybrids do not qualify for campaign but do have some tax benefits [need to verify]
- EV uptake is easier to track because NYS website for registration is available
 - just one EV registered since campaign begun
 - yet to learn: how many EVs are registered from Jay
- group: discussion on charges by NYSEG for EV charging stations
 - rumor NYSEG charged \$5K for chargers with little use in Elizabethtown
 - yet to learn: how NYSEG charges, how much, and to whom
 - EV charger grant will require maintaining chargers for 5 years: yet to learn: by whom
- Matt S: our draft EV flyer can be improved
 - Knut S: it was a quick fix to get something out there
 - Knut S: we'll put date, dealer info and town letterhead on flyer

8) Clean Energy Community (CEC) (NYSERDA): (Knut S)

- Target is \$50K grant; approaching threshold; yet to decide: how we'd spend
 - if we do some heat pumps for the community center, we'd collect some CSC points
 - maybe add some shades to key rooms (would likely need electric controllers)
 - uncertain if we'd have to spend quickly or could hold the money for a while (John C recommendation: spend quickly, celebrate & move on to next campaign)
- Matt S: interest in solar panels for Community Center or Highway Garage
 - Knut S: payback for solar panels can be a long time
- hundreds of things exist which can enable getting points (website)
- Knut has put together an initial spreadsheet of various items
- July 5th deadline for submittals in this cycle
 - need 120 points for Bronze certification; have 50-60 points
 - our potential right now is for 175 or so points
- NYSERDA CSC would need 3000 points by September (application deadline for 2024)

9) Bronze Climate Smart Community (CSC) Certification (DEC): (Knut S)

- analysis shows we won't be able to meet bronze certification by July 5th deadline
- if we purchase 5 items of electric (battery operated) landscaping equipment we get 200 points
 - highway dept has bought two so far; parks dept one (& bought/returned a trimmer)

9) Town Energy Fair: (Knut S.)

- group discussion on date and breadth of content for the event
 - decided to limit event to sustainability/energy items to not overwhelm its management
 - decided to invite Keene and Wilmington populations to participate (Barbara T enthusiastic)

- decided on tentative date of Saturday 14 September 2024
- decided on event title: “Community Sustainability & Energy Fair”
- decided on tentative location: JEMS/Village Green; will have to check for possible conflicts
- yet to determine: way to give it educational focus, make it easy to conduct/participate, and engage/invite absentee landlords

10) Other: (Wally W)

- Jay Comprehensive Plan Update:
 - town has received grant from DEC for \$66,690 with town to commit up to \$10K
 - won't have the money before August; working on RFP for consultant; earliest possible public kickoff will be Fall
 - climate & infrastructure will be a major theme and involve the Climate Task Force as a working group, likely with some expanded membership to handle infrastructure issues too
- NYS Smart Growth Principles: from Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act of 2010
 - law provided ten Smart Growth criteria for communities and infrastructure including “smart growth planning and design principles”
 - intent is for planners to incorporate SG principles in early project planning and design in anticipation of State agency SG reviews
 - used across many NYS agencies for community planning & grants
 - copy of 15 SG principles (from NYS Dept of State) to be distributed with minutes

11) Next Meeting: Friday, 28 June 2024, 3-4:30 pm, at Jay Community Center and on-line

12) Adjourned at 4:32 pm

Guest contact information: tam.barbara@gmail.com; Cell: (650) 722.9422