

Town of Jay Climate Smart Task Force --- 06/29/2024, Community Center, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Participants: Knut Sauer (Chair), Wally Walters (Recorder), Lana Gokey, Robin Licari, Olivia Dwyer

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

Absent: John Culpepper, Tyler Eaton, Matt Stanley, Nancy Bernstein, Katie Culpepper

Handouts (email): Agenda; minutes from 05312024 meeting

1) Call to Order (Knut S) 3:04 pm.

2) Minutes of 05/02/2024 meeting (not formally adopted but also used as framework for discussion, updating issues)

3) EV Chargers: (Knut S)

- nothing new to report; 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
- 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 and reps have apologized, as budget work has shoved greenhouse gas reduction efforts into the slow lane
- may now get visitor sign up or in a temporary location while still awaiting FEMA and DEC

4) Municipal Building Greenhouse Gas Reduction: (Knut S)

- Highway Dept garage lights & fixtures replacement by LEDs with NYSERDA support done
- at municipal building, just lights to be replaced; lights are in boxes in hallways awaiting installation
- steampipe wrapping estimate is underway

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

- potential for 300 points
- Tyler E: might be possible to have a contract agreement to have one firm do outreach for the town: “Solar Simplified;” one-time fee of \$50 per signup paid to the Town
 - some issues in doing this, giving exclusive agent contract; but approach has successes elsewhere

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

- have had five installs approved; will get \$5K (“Tier 1”)
- with ten more installs last week, we will get \$10K and also points (“Tier 2”)
- with fifteen more installs in the futures, we would get \$15K grant (“Tier 3”)
 - already have four agreements signed
- grant levels from NYSERDA for this will be reduced after October 1.

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

- we should work on the EV flyer to improve it; Lana helped with its wording
- only fully EVs count in this campaign (not plug-in hybrids)
- discussion about people's desires for EVs vs hybrids
 - 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]

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

- we've gotten approved points for heat pumps and for highway department landscape equipment
- now have 3000 points
 - we can be in the top three in the region with another 100+ points
- we are on track to qualify for a \$50K grant
 - discussion on what we could spend \$50K on
 - solar panels: between 50- and 100-kw systems would qualify for 1300 points
 - for a 60kw system we'd pay \$160K and get a \$15K NYSERDA rebate.; town would have to put \$145K up front but would get 30% federal credit, an additional 10% if system meets US content threshold, and possibly 10% if we qualify as a low income community, thereby lowering the true cost to \$87K or less, and if \$50K grant applied would result in net cost of \$37K, and system would save about \$6K/year in electricity costs.
 - result would be a six year payback for a 30+ year system
 - and we'd get a 'quick and easy' 1300 points, getting us close to the \$100K award level (till 1 Oct)
- discussion on program benefits: improved lighting, reduced taxes, better place to live, cooling center for the Community Center, more incentive to maintain the Community Center, better for climate; possible carbon neutral goal for communities in the future

9) Compost and Waste: (Robin and Knut)

- currently compost drop-off at Sugar Hill Creamery
 - compost sent to landfills presents methane emission problem
 - can do more with a transfer station
- presently, plastic recycling is limited to types 1 and 2
 - Plattsburg will take types 1 thru 7, but not any black plastic
- Intervale avenue culvert is full of wood chips
 - some grant money is out there for waste streams
 - the town would have to accept wood branch debris and then chip it
 - for the town to set up its own transfer station for this will be an effort, but could have free drop-off and provide mulch for farms and nurseries

10) Community Sustainability & Energy Fair: (Knut S.) [14 Sep 2024 at village green & JEMS]

- Keene will join in the event
- discussed concepts for the event
 - time 10-3; include some short seminars at JEMS
 - food trucks; maybe give some food coupons for individuals sign-ups
- need to focus more on the 'what' of the event
- Olivia D will work on an appropriate poster

11) Next Meetings:

- Friday, 19 July 2024, 1-2:30 pm, at Jay Community Center and on-line
- Friday, 16 August 2024, 3-4:30 pm, at Jay Community Center and on-line

12) Adjourned at 4:30 pm

Minutes drafted by Wally Walters for review by Knut Sauer