

Town of North Hempstead

Climate Smart Communities

Task Force Meeting #10

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 2 p.m. on Zoom

Minutes prepared by Mindy Germain, President Eco Leap

Present:

Elected Officials	Town Staff and Consultants	CSC Task Force Members
Mariann Dalimonte , Councilperson	Meagan Fastuca - Environmental Specialist; Planning and Environmental Protection Erin Molyneux - Aide to Councilwoman Dalimonte Eileen Kraneburg - Executive Assistant to the Parks Commissioner Victor Thomas - Commissioner of Department of Public Works Sarah Oral - PE, LEED AP BD +C, Civil Engineering, Director Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP Mindy Germain - President Eco Leap, CSC Consultant	Carol Frank Harriet Becker Rosemary Mascali

Members of the Community: Claire Treves Brezel and Margaret Galbraith

- I. Meagan Fastuca, Town of North Hempstead Environmental Specialist and CSC Coordinator welcomed the task force to the tenth meeting. The following in-progress Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action updates were reported:
 - A. Public Engagement
 - 1. Eco Leap Consultant Mindy Germain recapped recent advancements made with Go Green NHTV, a series designed to help residents take actionable steps to live a more sustainable life. Episode topics align with community priorities identified in Town climate survey. The first two episodes are now available on the Town’s NHTV website under programs in the section dedicated to Go Green North Hempstead (<https://www.mynhtv.com/gogreen>).
 - a) Episode 1, “Plant Native for the Planet” – Hosted by Councilwoman Veronica Lurvey, this episode discusses the value of native plants, what they are, and how to build and care for a native plant garden. It also uses Gerry Park to demonstrate several plant species that viewers may plant in their own settings. M. Germain thanks M. Fastuca for her involvement in creating the script.
 - b) Episode 2, “Know What to Throw” – Hosted by the Town’s new waste advocate, Harbor the Heron, narrated by Patricia Katz, explains how to properly dispose of food, yard waste, glass, metals, paper, cardboard, plastics, electronics, pollutants, medications, and more in an effort to clear up any misconceptions regarding the Town's garbage and recycling programs.
 - c) Episode 3, “Car Free Challenge” – Hosted by Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte and Sustainable Transportation Expert Rosemary Mascali, this

episode will be released soon as it was filmed last week and is now being edited. It focuses on bike share, transit, walking and carpooling through an entertaining challenge.

- d) Episode 4 – This episode is still being planned, but it will focus on energy. Topics will include efficiency, solar, heat pumps, and more.

B. Community Outreach on Reducing Energy

- 1. M. Fastuca reported that a webpage accessible through the Town's climate action webpage is in the works. This new webpage will include information on energy efficiency in the home, renewable energy, and incentives for technologies such as solar, heat pumps and electric vehicles. A plan for a webinar or workshop that will discuss these topics is also being discussed.

C. Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP)

- 1. Based on input from the task force, Town employees, and members of the public who attended the task force meeting earlier this year, M. Fastuca reports that an outline has been developed. Following the distribution of the outline to the task force a few weeks ago, some comments from members were received and are being incorporated. The next step is to begin a draft of the full CCAP for internal and task force review. The public will then be invited to comment on the draft once released.
 - a) Community GHG Inventory – M. Fastuca reported that she has most of the data needed and has started to input it into the Community GHG inventory workbook designed by the EPA.

D. EV Charging Stations – M. Fastuca reported that Blink is still working on getting permits for the locations that have already been determined (Lot 4 in Port Washington and Mary Jane Davies Park).

E. Oyster Programs Updates – Councilwoman Dalimonte reported that the Oyster program was taken out of the budget, so she will have to do an amendment to the budget to add it back in. This will allow the Town to put a million oysters in the Bay every year.

- 1. Manhasset Bay oysters are doing well, and a checkup will be completed this month. M. Dalimonte states that she also had debris removal completed on October 10 for the Bay; 6 large dumpsters of debris were removed.
- 2. Hempstead Harbor oyster cages/garden worked out well, spat on shells were seeded in the bay in September.
- 3. Recycling of oyster shells – The Solid Waste Department is working with the Town Attorney to get necessarily approvals for this project to commence. The Town will be working with the Science Museum of Long Island.

F. CSC Grant Submitted

- 1. M. Fastuca reports that the Town was able to submit the application in July for a consultant to produce a Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan. Updates on the grant approval are anticipated in December.
- 2. Response on the USDA grant applied for to start the food scraps drop off program is also being awaited.

G. CSC Application Progress

- 1. M. Fastuca reported that the Town is now certified as a Bronze Climate Smart Community. She thanked everyone for their hard work to achieve this goal and stated the importance of continuing our work.

- a) Two signs from NYS were received saying that the Town has been certified as a Bronze CSC. The first will be displayed at Town Hall. M. Fastuca asked the task force for suggestions for the second sign. The Town Dock by the bike share kiosk was suggested. Councilwoman Dalimonte reminded the task force to review locations with Town Commissioners.
- b) M. Fastuca reported that there will be a photo op with some of the elected officials next week on **Wednesday, October 25 at 2 pm** in front of Town Hall. She invited everyone on the task force to come if available.

II. Discussion of Community CAP Outline

- A. M. Fastuca asked the task force if anyone had feedback about the outline shared a few weeks ago.
 1. H. Becker suggested looking into Brookhaven's glass recycling program to see how more glass can be recycled throughout the community.

III. Sustainable Elements in DPW Projects

- A. The Town's acting commissioner of the Department of Public Works, Victor Thomas, discussed how the Town's DPW department is incorporating sustainability into its work.
 1. Native plantings in Fuschillo Park – An area with a splash pad and a playground has been added, so there are recessed areas where runoff from the hardscape goes into the garden beds. This reduced the need for onsite stormwater storage and diminished the need for irrigation.
 2. Protecting/Rebuilding Shorelines/Recreating wetlands – V. Thomas reported that the DEC has been leaning towards more natural solutions for erosion control.
 3. Dredging projects – The goal is to make the waters more navigable and reduce some of the barriers to keep the tides moving and flushing out corners of Manhasset Bay where sediment accumulates.
 4. Town Dock project – Town Dock was damaged during Sandy, so there is a FEMA project to reconstruct it. Work to address the surface water and the stormwater that accumulates at Town Dock is underway. Natural vegetation (that is drought tolerant) is being incorporated in the plans, this results in rain gardens/bioswales accepting runoff and filtering the pollutants that are coming off the surface of the parking lot. The bioswales can either process them (the plants that are chosen can break down oils and salts that come off the surface) or collect the debris before it discharges into Manhasset Bay. V. Thomas hopes that these techniques will be incorporated into other areas of the Town.
 5. Green Infrastructure - Permeable pavers under the parking lot at Mill Pond Park allow for more surface water to be absorbed back into the ground and reduce the amount of stormwater run-off/flooding. Lastly, Roslyn Pond has interceptors (under what look like manholes) where debris is separated from stormwater.

IV. New Business – no reports.

V. Next Meeting scheduled for January 9 @ 2 pm

VI. **Meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.**