

**Town of North Hempstead**

**Climate Smart Communities**

Task Force Meeting #9

Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 2 p.m. on Zoom

Minutes prepared by Mindy Germain, President Eco Leap

**PRESENT:**

<b>Elected Officials</b>	<b>Town Staff and Consultants</b>	<b>CSC Task Force Members</b>
<b>Veronica Lurvey,</b> Councilperson <b>Jennifer Desena,</b> Town Supervisor <b>Mariann Dalimonte,</b> Councilperson	<b>Meagan Fastuca</b> - Environmental Specialist; Planning and Environmental Protection <b>Joseph Canzoneri Jr.</b> - Plans Examiner, Building Department <b>Erin Molyneux</b> - Aide to Councilwoman Dalimonte <b>Mindy Germain</b> - President Eco Leap, CSC Consultant <b>Mitch Pitnick</b> - Town Board Department <b>Eileen Kraneburg</b> - Executive Assistant to the Parks Commissioner	<b>Patricia Katz</b> <b>Rosemary Mascali</b> <b>Stephen Cipot</b> <b>Carol Frank</b> <b>Jael Ferguson</b> <b>Jean Celender</b>

- I. Meagan Fastuca, Town of North Hempstead Environmental Specialist and CSC Coordinator welcomed the task force to the ninth meeting. The following in-progress Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action updates were reported:
  - A. Public Engagement
    - 1. Eco Leap Consultant Mindy Germain reported that after internal Town and CSC Task Force review the 2022 Climate Survey Report is posted on the Town Website and a press release was issued. The results are helping to shape the CCAP and solidify the narrative of two grant applications to be discussed in this meeting. Germain thanked everyone who participated in this process that documents public support for climate planning and action.
    - 2. M. Germain reported that the Town is developing on a Go GreenNH TV series to provide residents inspiration and actionable steps to live a more sustainable lifestyle. This initiative seamlessly fits into the Town’s Climate Action Community Engagement Plan. Four episodes are being produced for 2023 using the priorities the community identified in the Climate Survey:
      - a) Know What to Throw: Recycling Right and Keeping Trash Tight
      - b) Plant Native for the Planet
      - c) Sustainable Mobility
      - d) Renewable Energy and Home Efficiency
    - 3. M. Germain reported the “Know What to Throw” video is complete. It will be published once the Town’s website is updated according to the video with a new FAQ and useful links.

B. Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP)

1. M. Fastuca summarized efforts to create an outline for the plan according to feedback from the Task Force and Town staff. A basic draft of the outline has been produced and is being reviewed internally. The outline will include a Community GHG Inventory; necessary data to submit to the EPA Workbook is still being gathered.

C. M. Fastuca reported on the Town's installation of EV Charging Stations on behalf of Wes Sternberg. Since the last meeting equipment has been purchased for charging stations located at Lot #4 in Port Washington and Mary Jane Davies Park. Permits for installation are pending.

D. M. Fastuca reported the Town submitted an application to the USDA for a grant to create a Pilot Food Scraps Recycling Drop-off Program in North Hempstead.

1. The grant application includes three drop-off locations: Tully Park, North Hempstead Beach Park, and Whitney Pond Park.
2. The program engages a carter to picking up the scraps and bring to a local composting facility.
3. Ideally, the sites will be open six days a week and an annual compost give-back day will be introduced where the Town purchases compost back from the facility to give to residents free of charge. The proposal is designed to make composting accessible to the entire community, encourage less food waste, and reduce GHG emissions.
4. Response on grant application is expected late summer.

E. Update on Oysters in Manhasset Bay from Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte:

1. Another 1 million oysters will be placed in Manhasset Bay by the end of July at one location.
2. A request was submitted to the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee to do a shellfish density survey, which has since been completed (oysters were checked as well).
3. Training on how to build oyster cages has been completed by Councilwoman Dalimonte, Councilwoman Lurvey, and Bay Constable Mal Nathan. They will be volunteering for the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor.
4. Six cages will be put in North Hempstead Beach Park for the first time this year.
5. Progress has been made on a pilot to recycle oyster shells. Experts have recommended doing a pilot with three restaurants for year one. Three restaurants in Port Washington have been chosen, and the process will involve:
  - a) Every Monday at 2 pm, the oyster shells will be collected to be brought to the Science Museum of LI.
  - b) When the collection site is full, they will be delivered to the Town's Solid Waste Management Authority where they will be spread and cured for 6 to 8 months.
  - c) Cornell Cooperative Extension will then pick up the shells to bring to a hatchery to clean them and use them for their nursery.
  - d) The goal is to expand this pilot throughout the Town over time, targeting Great Neck and Manhasset next.
  - e) The initiative is planned to start this fall.

F. M. Fastuca reports that her and the staff in the Administrative Services Dept. have planted a Pollinator Garden located at Town Hall. It is part of the Town's Mayors' Monarch Pledge to increase habitat for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

G. M. Fastuca provided an update on the CSC application process, reporting everything has been submitted for bronze certification. Confirmation of certification is still being awaited.

II. Tree Committee update from Councilwoman Veronica Lurvey.

- A. Councilwoman Lurvey reported the Tree Advisory Committee was re-established in November 2021. The Committee now includes residents, representatives from the highway department, parks department, supervisor's office, a certified arborist, and the Councilwoman.
- B. The committee is working to obtain a grant to conduct a tree inventory. This would benefit the Town by increasing safety, maintenance, and liability mitigation. It would also help with budgeting and provide tree plantings guidance.
- C. The committee's other focus is public education, especially new tree care.
- D. Additional training for highway staff is being explored, who work with tree planting, maintenance, and removal.
- E. An official preferred street tree list for the Town was finalized. The list includes 29 different trees to choose from along with 72 cultivars, and many of the trees are native. Councilwoman Lurvey stated, "this will help the Town plant the right trees in the right places."
- F. The Committee has also provided input and comments on amendments to the tree policy. The tree policy governs the planting and removal of trees and saplings in the public rights of ways and Town owned public places. The proposed amendments are intended to further advance the Town's goals of preserving and growing a tree canopy, as well as to clarify certain provisions.

III. Geothermal concerns update from North Hempstead Plans Examiner Joe Canzoneri

- A. J. Canzoneri summarized that concerns with installing ground source heat pumps in the Town have been reviewed.
- B. 13 geothermal permits have been issued within the Town.
- C. The Town only allows closed loop systems.
- D. A list of requirements were shared, including: a Nassau County Home Improvement License and an International Ground Source Heat Pump Association License.
- E. The Task Force agreed that the Town's regulations were stringent and discussion ensued as to how to encourage villages to adopt similar regulations.

IV. **New business**

- A. M. Fastuca reported the Town will submit a grant application to the Climate Smart Communities program to hire a consultant to develop a Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Town's whole geographic region. The vulnerability assessment will involve identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing the effects of climate hazards and risks, such as flooding, heat stress or drought. The adaptation plan will outline a vision and set of strategies to improve resilience to climate change based on the Town's physical, economic, ecological, and social vulnerabilities. The application is due July 28. If awarded the grant, the project would begin in 2024.
- B. M. Fastuca reported The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District tour has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 3 at 2 pm.

V. **Next Meeting scheduled for October 17 @ 2 pm**

VI. Meeting was Adjourned at 3:00 PM