

Town of North Hempstead
Climate Smart Communities

Task Force Meeting #8

Yes We Can Community Center (with Zoom access)

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 2 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mindy Germain, President Eco Leap

PRESENT:

Elected Officials	Town Staff and Consultants	CSC Task Force Members
<p>Veronica Lurvey, Councilperson Jennifer Desena, Town Supervisor</p>	<p>Meagan Fastuca- Environmental Specialist; Planning and Environmental Protection Wes Sternberg- Planner; Planning and Environmental Protection Joseph Canzoneri Jr.- Plans Examiner, Building Department Erin Molyneux- Aide to Councilwoman Dalimonte- via Zoom Joseph Scalero- Deputy Town Supervisor and Chief of Staff Marshah-Reaff Barrett – Commissioner Solid Waste management Rosemary Olsen - Community Development Agency Joe Santamaria- Community Development Agency Mindy Germain- President Eco Leap, CSC Consultant</p>	<p>Patricia Katz Rosemary Mascali- via Zoom Stephen Cipot- via Zoom Harriet Becker Carol Frank Patrick Farrell Jael Ferguson- via Zoom</p>

Additional attendees:

Nadine Delmonte- Commissioner of Port Washington Garbage District
Margaret Galbraith and Paul Merkelson- Transition Town Port Washington
Gary Lewandowski- Village of Flower Hill Trustee

- I. Meagan Fastuca, Town of North Hempstead Environmental Specialist and CSC Coordinator welcomed the task force to the eighth meeting and thanked members of the public for attending.
- II. The following in-progress Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action updates were reported:
 - Public Engagement
 - i. Mindy Germain stated that the community survey concerning climate change was completed in January and the survey process will be repeated every five years. The report analyzing survey results is being reviewed internally, which will then be sent for comment to the task force. The results of the survey showed 490 respondents. Mindy thanked the task force for promoting the survey and helping to achieve representation across the Town.
 - Key findings of survey will help guide the Community Climate Action Plan:
 - Most respondents feel climate change is an urgent problem we need to prepare for.

- Most respondents feel unsafe from extreme storms and loss of power.
- Most are concerned for the impacts of climate change over the next 5 years, and even more so for the next generation.
- Most said the biggest barriers for progress are resistance to change and politics.
- 82.8% of respondents stated they want to be part of the solution. The areas they are interested in engaging in are:
 - Reducing waste and increasing recycling/composting
 - Sustainable landscaping - water conservation, reduction in pesticides, planting of native plants
 - Tree protection
 - Renewable energy and education incentives - solar and heat pumps
 - Creating a walkable, bikeable transit-oriented community
 - Energy efficiency programs
 - Green infrastructure to mitigate flooding
 - EV education and infrastructure
 - Support for green economy
 - Resiliency for flood prone areas
- ii. M. Germain outlined the video concept, “Know What to Throw,” presented in the last meeting to educate residents on how to dispose of trash and recycle correctly to maximize efficiency and follow protocols.
 - The video has a positive, “you can do this” approach with an endearing Harbor the Heron narrator, and simple, clear instructions. The team has been working with the NHTV production team to animate it and apply Patty Katz’s voiceover. Comments from last meeting have been incorporated including:
 - Who to call if your village deals with a private carter (dialing 311)
 - A link to watch how N. Hempstead recycling is processed.
 - Next step will be an outreach plan for the video, beyond NHTV (July agenda).
- M. Fastuca reported the Municipal Climate Action Plan (MCAP) was passed at the March 14th Town Board meeting. She thanked the task force for their review and comments. The actions are now in progress for completion.
- W. Sternberg reported on the Blink contract for EV charging stations. The implementation in Port Washington Parking District lot #4 is still in progress. It is planned to be four chargers to accommodate eight vehicles. The next location prioritized is Mary Jane Davies Park in Manhasset. (one charger for two vehicles)
- M. Fastuca reported on the Town composter and rain barrel sales. Last week, the Town already sold out of composters and only had a few rain barrels left. Another sale of both items will occur April 24. The promotion of composting supports the Town’s Organics Management Plan, and the promotion of rain barrels provides a tool to conserve potable water and reduce stormwater runoff.
- M. Fastuca reported on the WaterSense resolution the Town passed on April 4th, amending the procurement policy so that Town buildings and facilities utilize WaterSense certified fixtures such as toilets, faucets, showerheads, spray sprinkler bodies and irrigation controllers when undertaking an installation or construction. These products aim towards using at least 20 percent less water, helping the Town save water and energy in its facilities.
- A code amendment on fast tracking solar and EV charger permits was passed by the Town. This allows expedited permit application review by the building department for solar panels and electric vehicle charging stations (within 14 days of filing the completed application).
- Updates on the Oysters in Manhasset Bay on behalf of Councilwoman Dalimonte
 - i. All three sites are doing well, but one is improving at an even faster rate in creating a reef.

- This summer, another million oysters will be added to the bay.
- ii. A \$100,000 grant from former Congressman Suozzi was given to the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee (HHPC). Once permission is granted, even more oysters will be added to Manhasset Bay.
 - iii. Councilwoman Dalimonte has asked the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee to hire a firm to perform a shellfish density study and they have agreed. HHPC has done this three times.
 - iv. She is meeting with the Science Museum of Long Island about partnering to help with starting an oyster shell recycling program in the TONH.
- The Town held 3 annual home sustainability workshops were held in March on native plants, rain gardens and sustainable yard care and were very successful with an average of 30 attendees at each.
 - An employee sustainable landscaping training was given by landscape ecologist Rusty Schmidt to over 30 groundskeeping staff of the Town. It covered sustainable landscaping techniques including having healthy soil, water conservation and protection, native plants, wildlife conservation, electric equipment, and more. Widespread positive feedback was received, and it also led to the planning of 2 pollinator gardens in front of Town Hall, which will be planted this spring.
 - M. Fastuca notified everyone that the CSC application was submitted for bronze certification. Only 120 points are needed for certification, but the Town submitted over 150 points. Unfortunately, short staffing at the DEC will cause delay in their review of the certification application until at least after July.

III. New Business

- Meagan Fastuca reported that Paula Groothuis has stepped down from the task force. The Town is awaiting a new appointee from Councilman Zuckerman.
- It was agreed upon by the task force to disband the use of sub-committees. They are no longer needed due to increased involvement of all resident members in various programs where they desire or feel they can be the most helpful in.
- Discussions on Community CAP actions- the Town is working on a Community Climate Action Plan and a list of actions to be included in the plan was reviewed previously by the task force. Feedback on these actions included the following:
 - i. Carol Frank raised some concerns about the current regulations on installing ground source heat pumps or geothermal systems. A follow up on the process of looking at the current Town code and discussing with staff internally will be given soon.
 - ii. Harriet Becker suggested a Mayor's meeting with all the villages to engage with Community Climate Action Planning. It was reported that Baxter Estates Mayor Nora Haagenson, President of the Nassau County Village Officials Association may be able to help orchestrate this. Rosemary Mascali added that we can also go through the civic associations.
 - iii. Other initiatives were raised for consideration:
 - Consider bringing back "Guilt Free Green", a former Town sustainability program that went to community centers.
 - Co-mingled recycling is an issue. Caution is needed when putting bins in public spaces.
 - Updated education can be the key to influence climate smart decisions, especially with children's education.
 - School projects for recycling can be a great place to start.
 - Investigate Block Power – retrofit cities for energy efficiency
 - The possibility of community campaigns for energy reduction and EVs
 - Money for infrastructure in IRA, bi-partisan bill, grants, tax credits

- Bike lanes

- M. Germain shared work in progress for a Town Food Scraps Drop Off Pilot. The Town adopted an Organics Management Plan December 12, 2022 focused on reducing food waste. The plan focuses on prevention/reduction, donation and diversion (composting). As part of the Community CAP, an investigation is underway to pilot a Community Food Scraps Drop Off Program. A field trip is planned for April 20th to visit a successful municipal pilot in Scarsdale. Should the Town proceed, the following needs to be identified:
 - i. Outreach
 - ii. Drop Off Location
 - iii. Staffing
 - iv. Bins
 - v. Carting
 - vi. Processing
 - vii. Budget
 - viii. Growth Plan

The next step includes mapping out all elements above for a North Hempstead pilot.

IV. **Next Meeting is scheduled July 11 @ 2PM**

V. Meeting was Adjourned at 3:00 PM