

Town of North Hempstead
Climate Smart Communities
 Task Force Meeting #11
 Tuesday, March 19, 2 p.m. on Zoom
 Minutes prepared by Mindy Germain, President Eco Leap

Present:

Elected Officials	Town Staff and Consultants	CSC Task Force Members
Jennifer Desena, Town Supervisor Mariann Dalimonte, Councilwoman	Meagan Fastuca - Environmental Specialist; Planning and Environmental Protection William Ross - Supervisor’s Office Caroline Forger – Planning and Environmental Protection Sarah Oral - PE, LEED AP BD +C, Civil Engineering, Director Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP Mindy Germain - President Eco Leap, CSC Consultant	Harriet Becker Stephen Cipot Patrick Farrell Jael Ferguson Rosemary Mascali Jean Celender

Members of the Community: Jennifer Rotando and Julie and Emily Solomon

I. M. Fastuca, Town of North Hempstead Environmental Specialist and CSC Coordinator welcomed the task force to the eleventh meeting thanking everyone for their patience as there has been much transition in the Town and the planning department is still without a commissioner. The following in-progress Climate Smart Communities (CSC) action updates were reported:

A. Public Engagement:

1. Eco Leap Consultant Mindy Germain reported progress on education and outreach underway to reduce energy.
 - a) Realizing transitioning to renewable energy can be overwhelming, the Town launched a website and will be hosting a webinar to simplify the process.
 - b) The website provides step by step instructions, tools, and financial incentives to kickstart energy savings starting with a free energy audit to learn where the biggest energy efficiency gains can be made.
 - c) The page also links residents with various resources, including:
 - PSEG’s Energy Star rebate program
 - Information and financing incentives for solar, including battery storage and community solar
 - Incentives and tools to assess renewable heating options like air source heat pumps
 - Information and incentives for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles
 - Guidance to combine state and federal energy incentives to achieve the most financial savings
 - d) To bring the website to life and answer questions, the Town will host an

Energy Savings webinar on April 10th at 7PM. The Town invited a local North Hempstead resident, who has started the progression to renewable energy to share what they have learned. The webinar will continue with a panel of experts:

- (1) Brian Loughlin- Associate Director of PSEG Long Island Energy Efficiency- Residential Programs
 - (2) Tara Bono-McDermott- Solar industry leader representing the New York Solar Energy Industries Association (NYSEIA)
 - (3) Beth Fiteni- Outreach Coordinator for Drive Electric LI
 - (4) Hildur Palsdottir Dello-Iacono – Community Energy Advisor with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County
- e) The committee was asked to help to get the word out. A press release, flyer, social media, and email to outreach partners is planned. Town Board members will also be asked to share the program with their constituents. CSC task force members were asked to please look out for a flyer and registration information from Meagan to share within networks. Councilwoman Dalimonte suggested the recorded webinar be put on NHTV and Meagan said it would be branded as a Go Green NHTV program.

B. Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP)

1. M. Fastuca reported a draft of this document has been completed, which includes the greenhouse gas inventory. Caroline Forger, a member of the Town's planning department provided comments on the draft and currently Sarah Oral's technical team is doing some additional review of the document. Once this is complete it will be submitted for Town internal review and then be sent to task force members for review.

C. Oyster Program Update from Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte:

1. Two million oysters have been put into Manhasset Bay so far, with another million scheduled for this year.
2. Congressman Tom Suozzi gave Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee a \$300,000 grant. \$100,000 of that grant will be used for additional seeding of oysters in Manhasset Bay. The Cornell Team will be looking at a site in April.
3. Councilwoman Dalimonte is working with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau on a pilot program for Oyster Gardens in Manhasset Bay. One location was approved by the Town Board. It is at the Town Dock.
4. The Town Board approved again this year for the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor to place an oyster garden at North Hempstead Beach Park.
5. The recycling of oyster shells pilot program is pending approval.

D. Landscaping for People and Wildlife Workshop: M. Fastuca stated this webinar will be held Wednesday, March 20 at 7 PM on zoom. The workshop will cover the needs of wildlife and humans in a home yard and how to achieve these needs with sustainable practices such as using native plants, water conservation and preservation and composting.

E. Fleet assessment: M. Fastuca reported as part of the Town's municipal CAP, the Town is investigating next steps and costs to conduct a fleet assessment and electrification plan for the Town's fleet. The first step is a justification report for this plan. The Town will be reaching out to Drive Electric LI for assistance with this.

F. Grants:

1. M. Fastuca reported the Town was selected to receive a Climate Smart Communities grant to hire a consultant to create a vulnerability assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan for the entire Town. The Town is still awaiting final approval from the Office of the State Comptroller.
2. Unfortunately, the Town was not awarded the USDA grant for the food scraps drop off program, but the Town is looking into other funding sources for this. Meagan noted that Sarah Oral had said NYS is making organic waste diversion a priority in their Priority Climate Action Plan for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program and that there could possibly be a grant program for it in the future.

II. CEC 3.0 Program

A. Sarah Oral discussed the new NYS Clean Energy Communities 3.0 program. Communities are now able to complete many more actions which will give points and these points lead to different levels of certification from 1 star to 5. Each level provides increasing grant funding (1 star gives \$10,000, while 5 star gives \$350,000). There are also actions that provide grants with their completion. Community Campaigns can also be completed for grant funding. There are 3 types- EVs, Clean Heating and Cooling and Community Solar.

1. Meagan stated that the Town currently has enough points for 1 star certification, but the Town would need to decide what they want to spend the \$10,000 grant on before submitting for this since communities only get 3 months to do this and there are no extensions.
2. Rosemary expressed her interest in having Drive Electric assist with an EV Community Campaign and Meagan stated that she would definitely be interested and will work on seeking Town approval to do so.
3. As discussion of EVs ensued the status on the Blink Charging Stations was requested. Councilwoman Dalimonte reported that there were some concerns by the Town Board with the current contract and there have been discussions about how best to move forward. Rosemary Mascali offered her expertise to the Town on electric vehicle charging station business models.
4. Meagan stated that task force members should contact her if they have any questions for Sarah or suggestions on actions to complete for the CEC program.

III. New Business – no reports.

IV. Next Meeting scheduled for June 11 @ 2 pm

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