

Town of North Hempstead
Climate Smart Communities

Task Force Virtual Zoom Meeting #5

Tuesday July 12, 2022, 2 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mindy Germain, President Eco Leap

PRESENT:

Elected Officials	Town Staff and Consultant	CSC Task Force Members
Jennifer DeSena , Supervisor Mariann Dalimonte , Councilwoman	Meagan Fastuca - Environmental Specialist; Planning and Environmental Protection Wes Sternberg - Planner; Planning and Environmental Protection Mitch Pitnick - Special Assistant to the Town Board Erin Molyneux - Aide to Councilwoman Dalimonte Eileen Kraneburg - Executive Assistant to the Parks Commissioner Joseph Canzoneri Jr. - Plans Examiner, Building Department Mindy Germain - CSC Consultant Sarah Oral -PE, LEED AP BD +C, Civil Engineering Director Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP	Patricia Katz Jean Celender Rosemary Mascali Stephen Cipot Carol Frank Harriet Becker

- I. Meagan Fastuca, Town of North Hempstead Environmental Specialist welcomed task force to the fifth meeting, and reported Councilwoman Lurvey had a family matter, requiring her to postpone a report on the Town’s new tree policy.
- II. Meagan Fastuca provided the following updates on in-progress CSC actions:
 - a. Public engagement
 - i. The Public Engagement Plan was submitted for Town board resolution.
 - ii. The Community Climate Change Survey is live and available in multiple languages. It has been posted on the “get involved” section of the Town’s Climate Action webpage. The committee was asked for help with outreach strategies. The goal is 500 responses across all facets of the Town. To date 150 responses have been collected.
 - iii. The Town’s EV101 event was held in person at Clinton G. Martin Park in April led by Rosemary Mascali. It was very successful and included a show and tell of multiple EV dealers within the Town.

- iv. The “Under Our Feet” Drinking Water Resiliency workshop was held Tuesday May 17 at 7 pm virtually on Zoom. Councilwoman Lurvey led a panel discussion to determine the state of our underground aquifers that provide all our drinking water, threats to these resources and actions we can take to keep them resilient in the wake of Climate Change. Feedback was very good, and it was well attended. Further considerations will be made on these specific discussion topics:
 - Can any changes be made in how the Town practices water conservation on Town property to inspire the community?
 - How can the Town collectively work with water suppliers on a larger water conservation campaign?
 - How can we make Smart Irrigation more widespread across the Town?
 - v. A Composting workshop was held on June 4 with Transition Town PW at the Science Museum of LI. Mindy Germain discussed how food waste impacts climate change, Meagan Fastuca gave a home composting 101, Claire Brezel from Transition Town spoke about the Transition Town community composting program at the museum and Paul Merkelson introduced the group to Bokashi composting.
 - vi. A new slideshow for sharing Town of North Hempstead Climate Stories was shared. It is posted on the Town’s climate action webpage in the ‘get involved’ section. The committee was encouraged to submit a story and continue to promote this in the community.
- b. The Town’s Draft Climate Action Plan is currently being reviewed internally and once this is done it will be shared with the task force for your comments.
 - c. Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte reported the Town’s new community bike share has been installed at the three locations (Town dock, PW LIRR station, and Manorhaven Beach Park) and are being used to get from the Town dock to the Port Washington railroad station and all around Port Washington.
 - d. The EV Charging Stations contract has been executed and the Town is working with Blink to select the optimal locations for these stations.
 - i. Rosemary asked how many stations- Meagan Fastuca reported there will be 8 dual stations.
 - ii. Wes Sternberg stated that they will probably be predominantly level 2 chargers since they are cheaper and easier to fit into the grid, but the Town is looking to see if there is a possibility for any fast chargers as well.
 - e. The Draft Organics Management Plan was reviewed internally and was sent to task force members for review.
 - f. Meagan Fastuca reported on the Town’s Native planting Education and Demonstration projects, stating the importance of native plants in carbon sequestration, stormwater reduction and resources for pollinators and other native wildlife:
 - i. The Town planted multiple native pollinator gardens in Gerry Park and Whitney Park
 - ii. The Town’s Native Plant Rebate Program already has 20 approved projects and 5 completed, with more funding available
 - iii. The Town has taken the Mayors’ Monarch pledge to help monarch butterflies and other pollinators
 - iv. The Town assisted the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District in their planting of a pollinator garden with Patty Katz and students from a local environmental club.

- Patty reiterated how amazing the students were and thanked Meagan for her assistance. She reported everything is starting to bloom, looks beautiful, and is attracting pollinators.

- v. There will be a tour of the Gerry Park pollinator gardens on July 19 at 10 am (rain date July 21). Meagan Fastuca will be explaining the benefits of planting native plants for pollinators and giving a tour of the many gardens, describing what plants were planted, and their use by pollinators.

g. Meagan Fastuca is working on energy benchmarking for Town buildings so we can continue to track the Town's building energy use

h. The Town is working on three high priority Climate Smart Community application actions (Climate Action Plan, Green House Gas Inventory and the Public Engagement Plan). The goal is to submit before the next deadline.

- i. Sarah Oral reminded the Town they must fulfill all 120 points to be accepted.

i. Questions/ Comments

- i. Carol Frank asked a question about pesticide use at Harbor Links. Councilwoman Dalimonte stated that she is concerned since there is a neonic pesticide used there and that Meagan Fastuca is working to determine why this is used and if there is any alternative to using it. Meagan Fastuca stated that she is also concerned since this class of pesticides is known to harm beneficial insects, especially pollinators, and is looking into this with the Town Parks Department.

III. Meagan Fastuca and CSC Consultant Mindy Germain facilitated updates from sub-committees one and two:

a. Sub-Committee One

- i. Meagan Fastuca asked for Organics Management Plan Comments:

- Stephen Cipot commented that he was happy the Town is working with Transition Town and questioned whether there was a way the Town could create a site for drop off and composting of yard waste so that residents can bring this waste and get compost back for free or a small fee. Meagan stated that the Town is looking into a food waste drop off site at one of our facilities but doesn't know if it would be feasible to do a yard waste drop off site since the Town would need dedicated staff to maintain this. The Town currently picks up yard waste curbside.

b. Sub-Committee Two:

- i. Meagan Fastuca reported the following outreach initiatives for the Community Climate Survey: press release, stakeholder e-mail, social media and the Town's e-newsletter. Meagan also reported Councilwomen Dalimonte and Lurvey have promoted it via their channels. Mindy Germain recommended doing some tabling in areas where we have a lower response, follow up calls to stakeholders and more social media. Meagan Fastuca asked for further outreach suggestions:

- a. Rosemary Mascali suggested contacting Council members to see if they are promoting it.
- b. Patty Katz suggested tabling at some parks that have pools or are busy so there would be a lot of foot traffic or at least putting flyers there.
- c. Councilwoman Dalimonte suggested tabling at national night out Tuesday August 2.
- d. Supervisor DeSena suggested tabling or putting flyers out at concerts held at the Town.

IV. The following new business was raised:

a. Possible tours

- i. Jones Beach Energy and Nature Center has offered free walk-in tours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12 pm to 3 pm. However it seems to have stopped these for the summer.

- Meagan will look into resumption of tours in the fall. Task force members were interested in this tour.
- ii. Science Museum of LI tour of stormwater management practices. Task force members were interested in this tour.
 - iii. Mariann reported on an initiative she is leading for the Town to seed one million spat on shell oysters in Manhasset Bay. Three sites were selected with the Suffolk Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and approved by the DEC. The Town hopes to expand this to other locations as well in the future. Councilwoman Dalimonte asked if the task force is interested in going to Riverhead to see where these oysters are produced by CCE. The task force members were interested in this tour.
 - iv. Supervisor DeSena reiterated the Town's parks month activities and the Pollinator Tour at Gerry Park that will be given by Meagan Fastuca next Tuesday July 19.

V. Next Meeting scheduled for October 11 @ 2 pm

VI. Meeting adjourned.

3:00