



**Proposed Minutes of the May 2, 2018 Meeting
Gardiner Town Hall**

Task Force Members Present: Jason Mayer, Kim Mayer, Rebecca Carucci, Franco Carucci, Holly Schader, Rick Irizari, Aimee Spring-Cecil, David Dukler, Mark Varian and Stephen Weir

Task Force Members Absent: Lisa Lindsley (ill); Sara Minisinkos (meeting conflict); Suger Rowinski (scheduling conflict)

Meeting Began at 7:15, ended at 9:20

The prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Jason congratulated Holly Schader on the successful presentation of the EV charging station to the Town Board. He thanked everyone involved. Holly mentioned that what remains is getting three quotes from electricians who have done these installations and the application for the DEC grant. David said the Highway Dept. would dig the necessary trench to allow access to the electrical grid.
2. Jason sent the Taskforces the official CSC logo to be used on correspondence.
3. Aimee Spring Cecil reached out to Mrs. Cohen re: the graphic design on the CSG logo. No response received to date.
4. Jason Mayer sent David Dukler a copy of the Task Force members and mentioned Debra Clinton had dropped out as a member.
5. Jason Mayer noted he intends to approach the Town Board something in June or July with a CSG vision, including the plans for the Taskforces.
6. Jason Mayer sent Steve Weir the CSC Excel spreadsheet. Steve mentioned that the portal now has a new spreadsheet.
7. Jason Mayer completed a new mission statement. See New Business.

New Discussions/Updates on Projects:

Solarize Campaign – Franco Carucci briefed that the RFP is nearly finalized. He is working with NYSERDA on getting 5 bids from vendors that have been approved by NYSERDA and who are currently operational with access to our Central Hudson (CH) service grid. Franco mentioned that Gardiner is the first community solar committee.

Riverkeeper – Rebecca Carucci said David Sides and she were thrilled with the response from 36 volunteers. Volunteers will assemble at 9 a.m. on May 5th and once there, David will assemble them into teams. Rebecca mentioned that participants will get 25% off lunch at the Hoot Owl.

Youth Task Force – Rebecca Carucci said she wants to organize a youth exploration of streams and tributaries. She also wants to work with the Gardiner Day Camp during the summer. Holly Schader advised that she should consult the DEC magazine for helpful ideas.

Streetlights to LED – Aimee Spring Cecil did a PowerPoint presentation about the benefits of the project and the challenges facing it. While the project has the potential benefit of lowering lighting costs by 50% or more, there are hurdles to overcome. Among them are upfront costs the Town may not be able to absorb as well as community education. Past attempts in other communities failed due to glare, health and ecological concerns. Most of these will not occur in our project because we are using a 3000 Kelvin bulb or smaller. Aimee is working with the Mid-Hudson Streetlight Consortium which is currently putting out an RFP. Once the RFP is finalized, Gardiner can piggy back on the prices. At that time, Aimee will be able to present the cost of leasing or purchasing of a system to the Board. Aimee needs two volunteers to help with community education and research. Jason Mayer asked that Aimee send over position descriptions.

Discussion followed from David Dukler and Kim Mayer regarding getting grants from the State and/or Ulster County. Rick Irizari mentioned there are companies that will absorb the upfront costs in return for getting a % of the cost savings.

Climate Smart Plan/Submission of Points to the DEC – Steve Weir and Mark Varian watched the DEC Portal webinar. The Portal replaces Version 2 of the Manual. Steve noted that there is no more Certification at the Basic level. This has been replaced by Certified Bronze. There continues to be Mandatory and Priority items that are required at each level for the certification. The Portal now becomes the only place for submissions, including the uploading of supporting documents and the descriptions of our actions. Task Forces can now place projects in a planning mode and reviewers can change the project to completion status. The system allows us to track automatically how many points are in each status (planned and/or completed). The CSG can file for upgraded certification three times a year once we have achieved the required number of points. DEC will advise within 6 weeks whether they concur.

Steve recommended we should give access to the Task Force leaders to place their items in planned status, document their justification and upload their documents. We should select a small committee (Jason, Mark and myself) to do a quality review and make edits, etc. to the submissions after discussion with the task leader. If the project meets the DEC standard after the quality review, the sub-committee will mark the item Complete. As the cut-off date for application approaches, the sub-committee will decide if we will apply for upgraded status and if so, do the application. Mark and Steve will track the progress of on-going efforts and publish the spreadsheet for review at the next CSG meeting. Steve further recommended establishing a Google site to upload the spreadsheet to so that everyone can see what we are doing and that we should not apply for Bronze certification unless we are well over the number needed. We must have latitude in the event the DEC rejects or downgrade the points given to the project.

Discussion followed with the CSG members concurring with the recommendations. Steve asked whether he should establish the username and password, however Mark said we should wait on this until after the initial CAP Institute meeting to be held on May 9th. Agreed by CSG members. Steve will either establish the Google site or ask Jason Mayer for assistance.

Recycling at Majestic Park – Kim Mayer advised that there are no recycling bins at Majestic Park. We can procure four bins for around \$135. They will be subsequently painted green and decorated by a local artist. David stated that as a town board, we cannot fund raise but could donate the cans to the Town. Kim is going to explore whether members of the Gardiner Area Business (GAB) would make this donation.

Meeting Length – Aimee Spring Cecil noted that even after two hours, we were only halfway through the proposed agenda and proposed having two meetings per month. Jason Mayer will look into Town Hall availability. Other members suggested that the entire area marked “Discussion” on the 5/2 agenda be discussed at a later time.

Jason Mayer read the proposed mission statement for the CSG. The members decided to wait until the next meeting to discuss the contents.

The meeting adjourned. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 6th @ 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

Post Script: Sara Minisinkos wanted to let the task force know that she’s been trained on how to use iMapInvasives, the database used to report invasive species. She would like to put together a training either at the Gardiner library (followed by surveying of the rail trail), or at Minnewaska with some surveying of the park.

Submitted by Steve Weir