



## **Minutes of the August 5, 2020 Meeting Held on Microsoft Teams**

**Task Force Members Present:** Jason Mayer, Kim Mayer, Holly Shader, Franco Carucci, Rebecca Carucci Mark Varian and Stephen Weir, Recording Sect.

**Task Force Members Excused.** Rick Irizarry, Suger Rowinski, and Aimee Spring-Cecil

**Guests in Attendance:** Misha Fredericks, Ellen Ferranti and Roberta Clements

**Opening:** Jason opened the meeting. The prior meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Jason covered the following news events:

- The EV station was officially opened and we now are using 250kw of electricity a month. This equates to approximately \$16/month in billing and is roughly what we expected.
- Andrea Frank conducted her Climate Interactive Seminar, which Holly, Jason and Mark attended. Jason noted how many things must be done correctly in order to reduce overall GHG emissions. Andrea will conduct another seminar if there is sufficient interest.

### **New Business**

**Danskammer Boycott:** Jason introduced Misha, a Gardiner resident who has been spearheading an effort to derail Danskammer, the proposed natural gas plant in Newburgh NY. Misha presented a short history of the plant. It was originally built in 1951 and operated on fossil fuels which drove four turbines and used Hudson River water. The plant was one of the most toxic polluters in NYS and was effectively closed since 2012; it now only operates 5% of the time. Danskammer wants to re-open it as a natural gas plant: they claim in their literature that



proposed operation is vastly superior to current plant, in that it will not use river water and will be far more environmentally friendly. Yet, in their application to the DEC,

Danskammer's figures show that GHG emissions alone would increase by some 40 times and that there would be increases in nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide, VOC, particulates. Misha also pointed out that Danskammer marketing literature's claims are based on the current plant that has only a 5% usage, however, their application says their plant will operate 75% of the time. Further, Misha cited Dr. Carpenter of SUNY who has presented webinars on the dangers posed by Danskammer. She suggested CSG members visit <https://stoptheplant.org/>. Lastly, Misha urged CSG members to write to the Town of Gardiner Board members, urging them to pass a resolution to stop the Danskammer plant. The proposed resolution is on the August 11 TOG Board meeting.

### **Recurring Business:**

- 1. County CCA.** Mark attended last month. There were 14 attendees including Paul Finn, a member of the UC Legislature and representatives from Citizens for Local Power and Hudson Valley Energy. The major topic was the non-competitive position that CCA finds itself due to low fossil fuel prices. This is also spurring opposition from opponents of CCA and tying up the enactment of local laws.
- 2. Natural Resources Inventory.** The NRI Project group addressed the Open Space Commission on July 30<sup>th</sup> and the Town and Planning Boards on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Franco thought the maps and the presentation were high quality and would definitely help the Planning Board, as well as allowing the Town to update its comprehensive plan. Note: This is worth 10 points provided that the plans are approved by the Town Board and the inventory process and report content are substantially consistent with those described by the DEC publication, Creating a Natural Resources Inventory: A Guide for Communities in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation\\_hudson\\_pdf/nriall.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/nriall.pdf). The plan must be adopted through a local law, substantially similar to the model local law in Appendix G of the guide.
- 3. Green Purchasing Group.** Jason indicated that he is still publishing information on the group's discounted packages on the CSG FB page.
- 4. EV Charging Station.** The invoice for the May installation was sent to Town Hall for payment. Jason indicated that he must determine with Marybeth how payments from businesses and individuals would be worked out. Franco reported that he is still pursuing the signage for the site. An agreement also has to be finalized for the Town to share data with Energize and the DEC.



5. **Gardiner CCA.** Franco is going to arrange a meeting with Steve, Jason, Rick and Mark, as well as other interested Taskforce members, to discuss the pros and cons of each of the



vendors that we met. Franco is going to arrange a date with them. We decided not to pursue MEGA as they are not doing business in this area. Steve indicated that this initiative is worth 15 points but requires the following: submission of a copy of the approval from NYSERDA that indicates

completion of the Clean Energy Communities Program Community Choice Aggregation High Impact Action. In addition, submission of a confirmation of the population size of the community. All CSC action documentation must be available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

6. **Climate Smart Communities Portal:** Steve is posting information on the portal regarding the NRI, CCA and EV. Jason recently sent him several items. Steve continues to post monthly fuel bills from the Highway Dept. Mark indicated that since Town Hall is still shut down somewhat, we cannot update the GHG study.
7. **Riversweep.** On hold.
8. **LED: No update.**
9. **Trees for Tribs.** No update
10. **Solar Array.** No update.
11. **Community GHG Study.** Mark is still interested in pursuing this and recently watched the Philipstown presentation.

### **Closing Notes and Adjournment**

Rebecca wanted to know if CSG was a member of the Scenic Hudson Coalition and indicated that they meet every Monday. She advised Jason that we should contact Amy Kletter, who is actively involved in the Stop Danskammer movement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. The **next meeting** will be August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall @ 7 p.m. or via a teleconferencing. Stay safe!



Submitted by Stephen Weir