

MINUTES

NYACK CLIMATE SMART COMMITTEE MEETING

September 3, 2024

Attending

Andy Stewart, Andrew Goodwillie, Kathy Schwarz, Peggy Kurtz, Carl Ian Graham, Doug Kaufmann, John Cavuoto, Steve Cea

The Climate Smart Meeting covered the operational status of Marina charging stations, which have generated \$5.32 in revenue, and the pending issues with Veterans Park charging stations. The Village now has three electric vehicles in its fleet, aiding in the Clean Energy Community grant. The group discussed a \$5,000-\$10,000 grant from PeopleForBikes for cycling infrastructure, with potential projects including bike racks and trails.

Concerns were raised about including advocacy in the Nyack 2030 newsletter, with a consensus to focus on providing information rather than political positions.

Action Items

- [] Draft a transportation-focused article for the Nyack 2030 newsletter on public transit issues.
- [] Coordinate on applying for a \$5,000-\$10,000 bicycle infrastructure grant. Letter of intent due October 1st.
- [] Organize a meeting to brainstorm the EV event.

Outline

Transportation Updates and Charging Stations

- Steve discussed the operational status of Marina charging stations, noting they have generated \$5.32 in revenue.
- There are ongoing issues with the power at Veterans Park parking lot, affecting the timeline for an EV event and ribbon cutting.
- The team is targeting National Drive Electric Week (September 27-October 6) for the event, pending contractor updates.
- Andy mentioned the addition of three EVs to the Village fleet, including two Ford pickups and a Nissan, and the need for additional points for the Clean Energy Community grant.

EV Charging Stations and Fleet Operations

- Steve explained the operational EV charging stations in the marina and their listing on various mapping websites.
- The Village fleet charges at the water department in West Nyack, with the Nissan using private chargers.
- A village credit card on a smartphone app allows free charging for village fleet vehicles, with a public group option for others.

- The cost to charge for the general public is 35 cents per kilowatt hour, competitive with other local chargers.

EV Campaign and Clean Energy Community Grant

- Steve announced the achievement of tier three in the EV campaign and the additional grant funds.
- The next newsletter will focus on transportation, with an article on e-bikes by Maegan.
- Maegan discussed a grant opportunity from PeopleForBikes, with a letter of intent due by October 1 and grants awarded close to January.
- The group discussed potential uses for the grant, including bike racks, trail maintenance, and other cycling infrastructure.

Grant Opportunities and Infrastructure Planning

- Andrew has prepared a map and description of potential bike rack locations, suggesting collaboration to apply for the grant.
- The group considered the potential use of the grant for various infrastructure projects, including bike racks and trails.

Newsletter Strategy and Advocacy Concerns

- Marcy would like to include most of the content she now puts in the Green News email that is not sanctioned by the Village into the Village-sanctioned Nyack 2030 newsletter along with some longer articles.
- Andy emphasized the need for village-sponsored messages to align with the board's legislative agenda.

Public Transit and Advocacy in Newsletter Articles

- Kathy raised concerns about including advocacy for public transit improvements in an article.
- The group suggested focusing on providing information and positive models and avoiding political positions.
- Articles for the newsletter should be reviewed by the committee.

Finalizing Newsletter Content and Next Steps

- Kathy plans to meet with John Ross to finalize the public transit article, aiming for a positive and informative piece.
- The group agreed on the importance of advocating for public transit and other sustainable transportation options.
- Marcy suggested revisiting the Climate Action Plan for guidance on public transportation goals.

NEXT MEETING October 1, 2024 5:30 p.m.