

MINUTES

NYACK CLIMATE SMART COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 2, 2024

Attendance: Kier Levesque, Andrew Goodwillie, Liz McGrory, John Cavuoto, Jim Wilcox, Kathy Schwarz, Harry Vetter, Peggy Kurtz, Doug Kaufman, Shelley Kaufman, Pearl Gray, Marcy Denker, Steve Cea

1. NATURAL RESOURCES

Memorial Park – Follow up on the discussion at the March meeting about helping to organize a meeting or workshop of key stakeholders to discuss creating a vision, new engagement for the park, with a clear focus on sustainability. The presentation by Jessica Kuonen from Hudson Estuary Specialist, New York Sea Grant at the next meeting will help us see Memorial Park in the broader context of Hudson River waterfronts and climate change. Nyack has been awarded a grant for a vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan that will involve planning for storm surge and sea level rise, and the Village has a grant for design and implementation of improvements to the park.

Action: Marcy to follow up with Andy and Jim Wilcox to discuss further.

Note this resource: [Pollinator Friendly Parks](#)

Native Plant/Pollinator Programming

Dana Harkrider made an excellent 30-minute presentation to Sierra Club and will present it to the UN Green Committee on April 10 at 7p.m. Contact Harry Vetter harryvetter@optonline.net if you would like the link. Marcy, Rachel, Dana and others will be organizing ideas for more programming and projects related to expanding ecological landscaping in the coming months.

2. WASTE

Recycling Reminder Door Hanger Project Andy and Keep Rockland Beautiful initiated a project for having volunteers distribute door hangers at households where no bins are on the street the evening before.

Recycling Campaign: The Waste Working Group is in the early stages of developing a long-term recycling campaign.

3. OUTREACH

Farmers Market Table –Pearl Gray is organizing a Nyack 2030 table at the Farmers Market on April 18. Visitors to the table will be able to contribute suggestions and questions, sign up for volunteering, and chat about Nyack 2030 in general, but at this

event the focus will be on the [Nyack Clean Heat Challenge](#) (especially heat pump hot water heaters) and the **Community Solar Campaign** (as long as get that campaign started in time. Peggy Kurtz and Kathy Schwarz will be available to help. Pearl will get some prices for a table banner and tent for future reference.

Nyack2030 newsletter

We set a goal early May for creating a Nyack2030 newsletter to send from the Nyack2030 website and make available in a print form for several locations.

Articles: Rooftop solar–Andrew G; Electrification workshop–Steve; Community Solar – Marcy, Harry, and Peggy; Heat pump hot water heaters – Steve; Pollinator Pathway–Dana.

Carbon Footprint Calculator Possible carbon footprint calculators for the website should be evaluated.

Action Marcy will share a Google doc and ask for input.

4. TRANSPORTATION

Bike Racks - Andrew will prepare a map of recommended locations for bike racks and recommend types of racks. CEC grants less than \$5000 (which we will get for the first tier of the Clean Heat and Community Solar Campaigns) can be used for purchasing bike racks.

EV Campaign Update Nyack has surpassed the second tier in the campaign and has been awarded a total of \$1,250 in grants for clean energy projects.

DOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program The Village will likely submit an application for this program by August for planning for safety improvement and short-term pilots (for things like sharrows, speed humps etc.)

9W Shared Use Path – Doug reported on the NYMTC info session about the proposed path along 9W. Questions–if and how is this coordinated with the proposal or the Rockland Riverway, and is the Rockland Riverway project still being actively considered? What would the impact on the existing trails between South Nyack and Orangeburg be? Questions about how to make a safe project in some areas such as 9W near Lamont. Objections to asphalt paving and increased traffic on trails near homes. Submit comments now. Draft study will be completed this year and released for public review. Final report next winter

Charging Stations

Delays on the installation of new charging stations (100% funded by grant programs) for the municipal lots downtown and the upper part of the marina lot are due to issues with the contractor's insurance documents.

5. ENERGY & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Electrification Workshop

Steve will present a program focused about EVs and electric appliances.

Thursday, June 6, 6:30 pm, Nyack Library

Grant funds to offset permit fees

Working on using small CEC grant awards to reduce or eliminate applicants' permit fees for heat pumps

Community Solar Campaign -Upper Nyack and Nyack will collaborate on the campaign. Joule Assets will be a partner, vetting solar farms, fielding questions from potential customers. The solar company will bear costs of mailing and other outreach,

DPW Upgrades

Nyack will soon submit a CEC grant for efficiency upgrades to Village Hall

Solar Projects

Village owned properties are being evaluation for potential rooftop solar projects

CEC PSC proposal for cuts to NYSERDA

Discussion: The Public Service Commission is considering changes and cuts to NYSERDA's building programs what could have a significant impact on the CEC program. The PSC should hear comments from us as community members who understand the value of the program to local communities. Comments due by April 15.

Action Marcy and Steve will draft a letter and talking points

The local government engagement proposal for NYSERDA's buildings programs can be found on page 48 of the [Non-Low and Moderate Income EE/BE Proposal](#).

Proposals contain information on budget estimates, program design, and projected program impacts. Click [here](#) to access all proposals, supplemental documents, and submitted comments.

Materials: Low-embodied carbon concrete (LEEC) We still need to clarify whether there is currently a viable option for using LEEC here by talking to local manufacturers and contractors.

6. NEXT MEETING May 2, 2024 5:30 at Village Hall