

NYACK SUSTAINABILITY MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 18, 4pm

Present: Don Hammond, Alan Englander, Kathy Schwarz, Theresa Bergen, Lorien Barlow, Dave Zornow, Gini Stollendorf, Jim Politi, Marcy Denker

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION

Nyack is the first bronze-certified Climate Smart Community in Rockland County. The public announcement will wait until a press event with DEC representatives during Earth Week at Memorial Park. Date TBD. Nyack will continue to work on other actions in the program. Keeping certification requires renewal in five years. Higher levels of certification are possible.

Action: Send suggestions about accomplishments to highlight by 3/25 and set date with DEC.

NYSERDA CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES

Nyack is now registered, having completed four priority actions: Benchmarking, Unified Solar Permit, EV charging station, and CSC certification. Larger grants no longer available but Nyack will receive a \$5k block grant. Program is evolving.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

The Village will host a public workshop presentation by CCA administrator Joule Community Power on April 11, and on the same night hold a public hearing on a local, non-binding law authorizing the Village to purchase power on behalf of residents and small businesses. There will be further opportunities for outreach and education. Hudson Valley Energy partners with Joule on this outreach. See NNV [article](#) by Andrew Goodwillie.

Action:

- Post in Village Hall library, Nyack Center, Senior Center, Waldron, churches
- Post event on Rockland Sierra Facebook page

COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION

Emails We all should be thoughtful about sending emails to avoid overload and long email threads. The long discussion about the SUP was a good use of the Reply All. Short, local good news items are welcome. General questions, thorny issues and new business should go through Marcy. Going forward there will be more substance to share through memos and committee reporting at meetings.

Website and Social Media

Jane Cowles manages the Village website, Facebook and Instagram pages. We can start to use this more.

Lorien is now managing the Sierra Club Facebook page, so we will also be able to share info through this.

Lorien also pointed out that students use Snap Chat so we should see how to integrate that into communications.

Action: Send sustainability-focused material to Jane for the Nyack Village Instagram/FB page and copy Marcy.

PLASTIC BAG LAW and CAMPAIGN

Surveys went very well, almost finished; most merchants are supportive but those who do give out single use bags are not comfortable with the idea of a fee.

Not enough support among Village Board yet to go beyond County law.

If enough merchants are supportive, maybe Roger Cohen can help advocate to the Board on behalf of Chamber of Commerce.

Lorien will read the VON letter at RC Legislature meeting

Action:

Kathy, Theresa, Gini and Marcy to finish surveys

Plan next steps for launch of BYOBag campaign with students at Farmers Mkt April 4.

TRANSPORTATION

FLEET GREENING

Bruce Kenney is helping to get baseline data on Village-owned vehicles and fuel usage data and record-keeping on fuel usage by individual vehicles. Using guidance from the CSC program we will aim for a vehicle fuel efficiency policy with tracking of usage and goals for greening the fleet.

What is available for heavy vehicles? Not much right now...

It's on Jim's radar...potential sedan vehicles for EV replacement are: -Fire inspector's car and the small Parking Authority vehicles.

COMPLETE STREETS

Dave gave an overview of the CS approach for considering the safety and well-being of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers in planning for new and existing streets. Nyack has adopted a CS policy. Need to integrate this approach into all planning and decision making related to streets. Also includes "green streets" — incorporating plants and stormwater management.

Piermont Traffic Committee's Complete Streets Workshop, April 11 10 – 4

We can invite several people from Nyack to participate in this program with Dan Surazi/ NY Bicycle Coalition. Allen Englander would like to attend. Jim has something else that day.

Action:

Marcy to send notification to Planning Board and Village Board about workshop

MASS TRANSIT SUBCOMMITTEE

Discussion of range of problems with Hudson Link buses, schedule, promotion etc.

New Mass Transit Subcommittee formed—Alan Englander, Kathy Schwarz and Dave Zornow.

Brainstormed ideas :about

Key contacts:

Marcy met guy from LDEO Open House who does this kind of thing, get in touch?

-Meg Mayo Director of Visit Nyack should know

-Veronica Vanterpoole – Jen White

-Director of Economic Development of Rockland County should know

-Program with Uber/Lyft to get people from location to next bus stop

-Status and results from Transportation Survey?

Actions for MT Committee:

Arrange to meet as a committee

Contact Elijah about status of survey and seek his input

Make list of problems/break-downs

Reach out to key contacts for info/advice

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Need better internal communication between municipal sectors: parks, buildings and land use, transportation, utilities, etc.

Timeline:

Spring – Data requests and Scoping

Summer Communication strategy and outreach for steering committee

Fall – Communication: launch public outreach and engagement campaign

Ongoing: need to start identifying folks/volunteers who have valuable skill sets

Action: Marcy will send link to ICLEI and Climate Actions Plans

NEW BUSINESS

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Lorien organized the Student Climate Strike in Nyack and would like to build on this, including involvement with Sustainability Committee work.

Upcoming Event: LDEO + Nyack Center. “The Urgency of Climate Change”

April 2nd – Nyack Center

