

MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Attendees, In person @ City Hall:

Members: Austin Tylec, Deb Gondek, Emily Root, Jack Kanack, Jim Berry, Tim Pieper, Mustafa Aljassar, Matthew Bourke (advisor), Jason Kulaszewski (advisor)

Meeting called to order at 5:03 pm

AGENDA TOPICS:

- 1) **Approval of February meeting minutes** Motion to approve from Austin, second by Jack. Carried.
- 2) **NT Climate Action Plan**
 - a. Second meeting tomorrow, interns working on document production and data gathering. Will discuss survey questions, dissemination of survey, and scheduling of a public meeting. Matt will be meeting with NT department heads on the 25th to get input.
- 3) **CSC Social Media**
 - a. Facebook page is live, please like and follow, rate the page
 - b. Send post ideas to Deb and Emily as you have them
- 4) **Renewable Energy**
 - a. Joule Community Choice Aggregate
 - i. March 15 informational session @ City Hall 6:30pm went well
 - ii. Options for conventional, renewable, and 50/50. Those opted in will have conventional selected, residents can select the other options if desired.
 - iii. Council will be voting on a decision on April 25th
 - b. NT Solar Policy / Unified Solar Permit – table until next month
 - c. Discussed several programs that we could potentially do community outreach/campaigns on:
 - i. Rewiring America- rebate for renewable home improvements by end of 2023
 - ii. PACE program, helps developers use the value of their building to make energy efficiency improvements
 - iii. Empower
 - iv. Jason followed up with details on the NYSERDA Community Campaigns
 1. Completion of the campaign could result in grant funding for the City/Task Force
 2. Would be able to develop an outreach/education campaign for this year if of interest. Would need to approve the NYSERDA Scoping Document prior to moving forward with the campaign.
- 5) **Zoning: High Energy Use District Overlay**
 - a. Update on Niagara Falls court case (City of Niagara Falls vs US Bitcoin)

- b. Mining facility ignored Niagara Falls' new requirements. Judge upheld the High Energy Use District Overlay including fines, which totaled over \$1 million. Case was settled for \$150K, provided US Bitcon immediately adheres to new zoning requirements.

6) Source Water Protection

- a. Held first meeting on March 22nd and it went well. Reviewed program details.
- b. Completing some follow ups to fill out information and see if other adjacent communities would like to join the planning process, and will schedule our next meeting soon. The intent is to meet monthly.

7) Earth Day Plans

- a. NT cleanup, April 22nd at Mayor's Park. Bring rakes if you're coming.
- b. Should hear about grant for electric vehicle charging station next week.
- c. Austin presenting at One Region Forward meeting on April 27th from 10-11:30.

Motion by Austin to adjourn meeting; seconded by Jack at 5:52pm.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, May 10 @ 5pm City Hall