

MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Attendees, In person @ City Hall:

Members: Austin Tylec, Erin Robinson, Deb Gondek, Emily Root, Jack Kanack, Mike Tuzzo, Jim Berry, Tim Pieper

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm

AGENDA TOPICS:

- 1) **Approval of February meeting minutes** Motion to approve from Austin, second by Jim. Carried.
- 2) **Discussion and vote on membership:** Mustafa Aljassar. Motion to approve from Erin, second by Austin. Carried.
- 3) **Outcome of 2/28 CSC Update presentation to NT Common Council**
 - a. Deb presented and it went well
 - b. In the future, we should all try to attend
 - c. Positive comments on Community Choice Aggregate
 - d. Invited council members to consider having a representative / liaison on the task force
- 4) **NT Climate Action Plan:** Recap of March 7 kick-off meeting
 - a. Talked about using vulnerability assessment as input. Four key focus areas-
 - i. Flooding/severe storms
 - ii. Winter/ice storms
 - iii. Extreme heat
 - iv. Invasive species
 - b. Next steps: identify stakeholders, develop survey for residents, determine outreach methods. Discussed outreach opportunities at market on Earth Day, April 22nd and cleanup at Mayor's Park, NT Garden walk, July 8 & 9, 10-3, NTBGO Plant Sales May 13 and 20 from 9-12 are first two.
 - c. Matt will provide access to google drive with associated documents.
 - d. Meeting again on April 13th.

Erie County's Climate Action Plan - community engagement on Saturday, March 18. Task force members are encouraged to attend.

https://www.buffalorising.com/2023/02/2023-erie-county-climate-action-showcase/?utm_source=Website+Membership&utm_campaign=b7352f544c-BRo-Digest-Daily&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_da563b88af-b7352f544c-105626037&mc_cid=b7352f544c&mc_eid=2ae498eaf9

- 5) **Source Water Protection**
 - a. Developed committee list, sent out doodle poll for first meeting, should be scheduled for March.

6) **Renewable Energy**

- a. Joule Community Choice Aggregate (March 15 informational session @ City Hall 6:30pm)
- b. NT Solar Policy / Unified Solar Permit: future workshop with Common Council
 - i. Erin will develop a one page informational sheet on the Unified Solar Permit.

7) **Zoning: High Energy Use District Overlay (Deb)**

- a. Deb will provide an updated draft in May.
- b. Discussed the possibility of including this as part of City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Update.
- c. Example of community engagement in Tonawanda (Tues, March 21 6pm - 7:30pm)
https://actionnetwork.org/events/tonawanda-townwide-rezoning-introduction-meeting?link_id=6&can_id=963ed0202add9605748da1ea634483db&source=email-lets-reimagine-what-public-safety-means-2&email_referrer=email_1801501&email_subject=annual-membership-meeting-march-28

8) **CSC Facebook Page**

Launch on Earth Day (4/22), Emily and Deb will be coordinating on this over the next month. Example of outreach to raise awareness of NYS Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act and GHG targets --

https://www.buffalorising.com/2023/02/climate-smart-communities-should-not-stand-in-the-way-of-stopping-climate-change/?utm_source=Website+Membership&utm_campaign=a60ade8f35-BRo-Digest-Daily&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_da563b88af-a60ade8f35-105626037&mc_cid=a60ade8f35&mc_eid=2ae498eaf9

Motion by Erin to adjourn meeting; seconded by Emily at 6:04pm.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, April 12 @ 5pm City Hall