

MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Attendees, In person @ City Hall:

Members: Austin Tylec, Deb Gondek, Emily Root, Jack Kanack, Jim Berry, Tim Pieper, Mike Tuzzo, Jason Kulaszewski (advisor)

Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm

AGENDA TOPICS:

- 1) **Approval of April meeting minutes** with update to agenda item 1 from February to March. Motion to approve from Jim, second by Austin. Carried.
- 2) **NT Climate Action Plan**
 - a. Transitioning from Matt Bourke to Brian Conley from UBRI. Working on draft community survey; review of existing plans, vulnerability assessment and scenario planning.
 - b. Revised timeline and deliverables will be discussed at the next CAP subcommittee meeting in late May.
- 3) **No-Mow May**
 - a. Discussed an alternative campaign for larger impact: Pesticide free lawns, promote the benefits of having organic lawn practices, link to bees
 - b. Possible existing programs that could be utilized in social posts- Erie County's Healthy Lawns campaign <https://www3.erie.gov/environment/healthy-lawns>, <https://erie.cce.cornell.edu/resources/dog-safe-lawn-poster>
 - c. Neighbor notification law- companies are supposed to notify neighbors prior to spraying
 - d. Think more about native seeds – how can we help make native plants and seeds more accessible to our community
 - e. Discussed idea to promote the Task Force facebook page through a green environmental event, bring ideas to the next meeting on what we can do to better engage with the community
- 4) **Renewable Energy**
 - a. Update on Community Choice Aggregate / RFP. Issued two RFPs, waiting for responses to get best pricing.
 - b. NT Solar Policy / Unified Solar Permit – table until next month
- 5) **Source Water Protection**
 - a. Reached out to City of Lockport, Town of Tonawanda and City of Tonawanda to see if they want to join this effort as these communities all draw their drinking water from the Niagara River nearby or upstream of ours. Lockport has confirmed interest.
 - b. Next meeting will be scheduled soon and will be establishing goals and vision statement
 - c. Discussion on article on leachate and PFAs - <https://niagarafallsreporter.com/buffalo-sewer-authority-dumping-toxic-pfas-waste-into-the-niagara->

[river/?amp=1&fbclid=IwAR2U1Azil1Ljlyh6PDLUXMJg30w6y07c867vJcbfbPHfWByNTFDB-C3hi0E](https://www.facebook.com/river/?amp=1&fbclid=IwAR2U1Azil1Ljlyh6PDLUXMJg30w6y07c867vJcbfbPHfWByNTFDB-C3hi0E)

6) **Ideas for Team Site Visit**

- a. Jim will look into the UB greenhouse facility

Motion by Austin to adjourn meeting; seconded by Jack at 6:15 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, June 14 @ 5pm City Hall