

MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Attendees, In person @ City Hall:

Members: Austin Tylec, Deb Gondek, Tim Pieper, Emily Root, Erin Robinson, Mike Tuzzo, Jim Berry, Josh McClain (University at Buffalo Regional Institute)

Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm

AGENDA TOPICS:

1) **Approval of October meeting minutes**

Tim motion to accept; Austin 2nd. Carried.

2) **Climate Resiliency Plan**

- a. Recap of 10/24 presentation at Common Council Workshop.
- b. Council plans to vote on a resolution at the November 21st meeting.
- c. Deb will confirm with Donna Braun that CRP is on the 11/21 council agenda.

3) **Source Water Protection**

- a. Emily and team working on management actions.
- b. Send draft to task force when ready for review, potentially as a pre-read before the December meeting.

4) **Community Solar Campaign**

- a. Reviewed Community Campaign Scoping Document from NYSERDA. Need to identify a project manager, core team, local partner organizations, and a vendor for the application if it's something we want to pursue.
- b. Josh will follow up with examples of scoping documents from other local communities and a list of potential vendors to help assess next steps.

5) **Unified Solar Permit**

- a. No update in relation to NT this month.
- b. NYSERDA will be releasing new regulations on CSC points, likely by the end of the year.

6) **Brainstorm Ideas for Task Force tours**

- a. Discussed a few ideas: Buffalo Botanical Garden, NT Carnegie water diversion project, etc.
- b. Castellani exhibits <https://www.castellaniartmuseum.org/exhibitions/?dates=Current>. Biological Regionalism and Knowing Land sessions; Thursdays open until 7. Task force could gather afterward at Water Street Landing or somewhere in Lewiston. Good option for Jan / Feb.
- c. UB art installation event is in conjunction with a public talk on Monday night, November 20th (6:30-8:00) as part of the Department of Art Visiting Artist Speaker Series.
<https://arts-sciences.buffalo.edu/art/news-events/visiting-artist-speaker-series.html>

7) **Other Business**

- a. Request for NT to sign on to Climate Change Superfund Act which, "establishes the climate change adaptation cost recovery program to require companies that have contributed significantly to the buildup of climate-warming greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to bear a share of the costs of needed infrastructure investments to adapt to climate change." Tim will research and provide additional info; then Deb will modify sign-on letter for Austin's signature.
<https://www.wbfo.org/2023-10-06/push-made-to-keep-companies-climate-conscious-with-legislation>

Meeting adjourned at 5:44. Motion by Jim, second by Emily.

Next Meeting: December 13, 5pm @ City Hall.