**MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE**

**Date:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024

**Attendees, In person @ City Hall:**   
Members: Austin Tylec, Emily Root, Deb Gondek, Tim Pieper, Elliot Lear (MUP student at UB), Jarrett Steffen (Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper)

Meeting called to order at 4:56 pm

**AGENDA TOPICS:**

1. **Solar Simplified**

We’ve reached Tier 3 with over 160 applicants.

1. **NYSERDA Clean Energy Grant & $10k Grant Application**

Tim will follow up with Jason about next steps for submitting a proposal.

1. **Source Water Protection Initiative**

Just received the second round of review of plan from state. Ryan Bell from DOH will review and make edits, and will provide a summary of any major changes and a copy of the updated plan. Once the final version is accepted by the state we can talk about next steps for technical assistance shortly after.

1. **DEC Permit Update**

No new updates on Digihost Title V air permit.

Erin researched Calgon permit information, appears to have no expiration date.

1. **Other Business**

Elliot reviewed his research on NYSERDA programs: Empire Plus program, New York Sun Program, Clean Heat Program. There is also a Niagara County- Healthy Neighborhood Program that helps residents identify issues like lead paint or fire hazards. These programs could be shared on our social media.

Austin is working with an intern Kai who is an Urban Planning student at UB, researching what services or benefits could be offered to help residents in disadvantaged neighborhoods beyond what’s already offered by the City.

Jarrett updated the group on the EPA Environmental Justice grant program Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will be leading in the Lake/Erie Niagara River watershed over the next 6 years. There will be 2 rounds of funding; the first round of funding will be announced in Spring of 2025. Projects will need to be linked back to Great Lakes Restoration Initiative goals including education, outreach, and restoration. Currently planning listening sessions in October and looking for interested individuals to serve on an outreach committee to help advise and shape outreach happening in advance of the first round of funding.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48. Motion by Emily, second by Deb.

**Next Meeting:** September 11, 5pm @ City Hall.