

MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Attendees, In person @ City Hall:

Members: Austin Tylec, Emily Root, Deb Gondek, Jim Berry, Mike Tuzzo, Tim Pieper, Elliot Lear (MUP student at UB), Kevin (intern), Via Zoom Jason Kulaszewski (University at Buffalo Regional Institute)

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm

AGENDA TOPICS:

1) **Approval of April meeting minutes**

Austin motion to accept; Jim 2nd. Carried.

2) **Solar Simplified**

NYSERDA approved the scoping doc, mailer will go out to residents soon. Erin will help determine a plan for outreach events. Will also do a press release and Austin will send out in his weekly newsletter. There are 300 spots available currently, with 2,700 spots opening up around July. Solar will be sourced from projects in the Syracuse, NY area.

Solar Simplified is focused on residential energy users; however, businesses operating in North Tonawanda are welcome to submit an enrollment application and Solar Simplified will evaluate the usage and size of the account. For large businesses, the enrollment is assessed on a case-by-case basis. They typically prioritize residential accounts and small businesses, as the goal for the municipal program and residential campaigns is to benefit as many households as possible. In some cases, this means providing service to 100 households versus one large business.

3) **NYSERDA Clean Energy Grant**

Submitted clean fleet info to NYSERDA, eligible for \$10k grant award and should be notified soon. After notification the City has 6 weeks to develop a plan. Trees aren't likely to be funded. Example projects include lighting upgrades, EV charging stations. Once we get notification from NYSERDA a meeting will be scheduled to discuss ideas.

4) **Source Water Protection Initiative**

a) Recently received edits to plan after feedback from State, getting feedback to State by this Friday and then will commence 2nd round of review. Once that is complete we will discuss next steps for consultant support to advance priority actions:

- a. **Outreach:** Lawn & Garden Chemicals (1), Marinas & Boats (3); **SPDES permits (6.4); Sustainable Stormwater Management / Filtration (6.5); Source Water Monitoring (7)**
- b. Erin: Discussed research on SPDES permitted facilities (6.2) and Potential contamination map / Emergency Plan (6.3). Erin suggested doing a pilot project for potential contaminant sources close to water sources and will investigate a bit more before our next meeting.

5) **NT's LWRP & Comprehensive Plan**

- a. Several public meetings have been held to date, and the second Committee meeting was held on Monday to review the existing conditions information. Discussed the inclusion of wetlands in the percentage of vacant land, and a few of the other statistics for consideration.

6) **Other Business**

- a) None

Meeting adjourned at 6:15. Motion by Austin, second by Emily.

Next Meeting: June 12, 5pm @ City Hall.