

MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Attendees, In person @ City Hall:

Members: Austin Tylec, Emily Root, Deb Gondek, Erin Robinson, Elliot Lear (MUP student at UB), Jason Kulaszewski (University at Buffalo Regional Institute)

Meeting called to order at 5:09 pm

AGENDA TOPICS:

- 1) **Approval of May meeting minutes**
Vote at next meeting, no quorum.
- 2) **Solar Simplified**
 - a) Available solar filled up much faster than expected. To date from only online and via phone, 29 residents are fully enrolled and 61 are waitlisted. Space is reserved for areas mapped by NYSEERDA as low income, otherwise residents will have to wait until August to enter into program. 160 is our goal for grant funding. Discussed communications including process for notifying people on waiting list when new solar projects are available.
- 3) **NYSEERDA Clean Energy Grant & \$10k Grant Application**
Discussed 1818 Sweeney Street as a potential project to utilize grant funding. Austin will have an energy study completed for the building. \$10k grant application due end of August. Another option would be to purchase electric landscaping equipment.
- 4) **NYS Green Resiliency Grant Program**
 - a) Funding for green infrastructure to address combined and/or sanitary sewer overflow during extreme weather events. Maximum grant of \$10 million to fund up to 90% of project costs. City is working on proposals for 2 projects.
- 5) **Source Water Protection Initiative**
 - a) Hoping to receive final acceptance with the state by July 19th. Then will reassemble stakeholders to discuss top 3 priority issues so we can hit the ground running with implementation of 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)
- 6) **NT's LWRP & Comprehensive Plan**
 - a. Community engagement ongoing, several walking tours and a boat tour coming up. Next Committee meeting will be July 11.
- 7) **Two Year Moratorium on Cryptocurrency operations in NT**
 - a) Important step in reducing GHG emissions in City
 - b) Council Workshop (May 14)
 - c) Public Hearing (July 9) and Council vote (July 16)
- 8) **Other Business**
 - a. Solar zoning revisions will be voted on by Common Council next week.
 - b. Discussed Elliott's research on funding support for residential home improvement programs in NYS. Will distribute to the group via email. Could include as a resource list on our website once research is complete and the group has had a chance to review and discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18. Motion by Austin, second by Emily.

Next Meeting: July 10, 5pm @ City Hall.