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

**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023

**Attendees, In person @ City Hall:**   
Members: Austin Tylec, Tim Pieper, Emily Root, Erin Robinson, Mike Tuzzo, Jack Kanack, Mustafa Aljassar, Jason Kulaszewski (University at Buffalo Regional Institute). Via Zoom: Deb Gondek

Meeting called to order at 4:57 pm

**AGENDA TOPICS:**

1. **Approval of November meeting minutes**   
   Austin motion to accept; Erin 2nd. Carried.
2. **Source Water Protection**
   1. Reviewed draft North Tonawanda & Lockport Drinking Water Source Protection Program Plan.
   2. Send feedback to Emily by 12/18.
   3. As next steps, after feedback is received and plan in updated, State will review and approve.
   4. Discuss in the future how to engage the Council on this.
3. **Renewable Energy Initiatives**
   1. Unified Solar Permit:
      1. Austin, Jason and Erin will attend Common Council meeting on Tuesday. For the CSC program we need a resolution that the permit is officially adopted.
   2. Community Solar Campaign:
      1. Discussed Solar Simplified campaigns. No requirement from NYSEDA to do an RFP process. Want to ensure there’s ample room on an array for community members to utilize when they sign up, all residents and small businesses are eligible. Scoping document helps identify partner organizations, where we would want to do outreach, etc. NYSERDA usually takes 2-4 weeks to approve a campaign and UBRI can work with municipalities to develop outreach materials. Plan to present that at the Common Council Workshop on January 16.
      2. NT Community Solar Campaign Scoping Document (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wjocsW2cYDwxRiw7moBrOblmYCrhtIYY/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108571150300703465839&rtpof=true&sd=true>). Jason added UBRI into a few places in the document. Please let him know if you have any questions about completing this.
4. **NYS DOT: Carbon Reduction Program Grant Application**
   1. Lumber City Development applied for funding for upgrades to outdated signals, new controller, cameras. This should help with points for the CSC certification.
5. **Finalize Task Force Tours for 2024**
   1. Start with a tour of Mustafa’s net zero home on Payne and Christiana in January or February
      1. The costs are approximately $100,000 to convert a normal residence to net zero, with rebates.
      2. Tonawanda leveraged Community Development Block Grants to pay for 50% of exterior costs in low-income areas, up to $35k.
      3. Clean Energy Communities Program information was just updated.
   2. Other ideas for future consideration
      1. Thursday in Jan / Feb @ NU
      2. UB: New Fieldhouse (north campus) and Crosby Building (main campus)
      3. PUSH Buffalo / Sustainable Development
      4. Tesla Legacy corridor (NT / Niagara Falls)
      5. Carnegie Rainwater Project (NT)
6. **Other Business**
   1. Elect CSC Task Force officers in January. Please contact Deb if you’re interested in serving in an office capacity, as well as any ideas on new task force members.
   2. Jack Kanack has decided to step down from the Task Force at the end of this year. We thanked him for his service, especially helping us understand the various components of noise level readings.
   3. Village of Lancaster hired a new Climate Smart Communities Coordinator and they are interested in talking with us, Jason will connect Amy Stypa with Deb.
   4. LWRP/Comprehensive Plan kickoff will happen in January (Tim, Mike and Emily will participate)
   5. Discussed recent grant awards- CFAs and WIIA grants
   6. Current call for projects from UBRI for the **Climate Pollution Reduction grant** through EPA, deadline is mid-January. Link for project submission form as well as additional information about the effort:  
      <https://createsend.com/t/i-8B42E0BED499B8142540EF23F30FEDED>
   7. Spectrum News Special on climate change impacts on Great Lakes communities: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/Climate/2023/12/07/climate-migration-special>

Meeting adjourned at 5:48. Motion by Tim, second by Austin.

**Next Meeting:** January 10, 5pm @ City Hall.