

Jan 27, 2024
Town of Taghkanic
Minutes of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force

- Bob learned from the EMC meeting that there is a lot of NYSERDA money available at this time. He indicated Carol Smilie (Gallatin) mentioned wanting to establish a Green Fund line in their town budget, to prevent CSC grant money from being used for other town expenses. This may require some more clarification / discussion.
- Doug erroneously made the case that the requirement of 50 solar customers to reach Tier-2 in the CEC guideline should mean a total of 50 overall, whereas Betsy claimed that 50 new customers were required. Research verified that Betsy was correct. A total of 50 new subscriptions are required to reach Tier 2.
- Betsy indicated the county CSC is looking for representatives from each town. Betsy indicated she would like to be Taghkanic's representative. All were in favor of this.
- Betsy relayed that Gallatin would like to be involved in our Feb Taghkanic Talks. The Feb event will be a combined presentation of community solar by Allie Naganuma (Solstice), one on heat pumps by Paul Stathis (NYSERDA), and one additional person to speak about weatherization (TBD). The committee welcomes Gallatin's participation. Betsy is working with Allie and Paul to sort out details. NYSERDA will provide pizza from JoJo's Pizza. The event is currently scheduled for 5:00 on Feb 29th, but due to the Emergency Preparedness event at Chatham high school on the same evening, Betsy will look into changing our event to Feb 28th. (Note: the Taghkanic event has been changed to Feb 28th, 5:30 – 7:30pm.)
- Betsy gave an update of the tree planting plans at the Taghkanic State Park. She needs to work out details with park officials, and the event will have to undergo SEQR review. In addition, arrangements need to be completed for a hike through the park with Tim and/or the park supervisor to identify planting sites. Betsy will invite Gallatin to participate, since half of TSP is in Gallatin.
- Tony, others talked about our desire to organize a list of contact information (phone, emails) for residents as part of our own Emergency Preparedness planning. How to go about doing this was discussed. Perry mentioned the idea of putting an 'insert' into envelopes for property tax mailings. There were some concerns about the feasibility of this.
- Celine has been appointed as a member of the Office For the Aging. She indicated they would also be looking to develop a call list for the "aging", so...most of Taghkanic. 😊 We'll see what develops.
- Charlene mentioned that she would like us (i.e., the town more than the CSC specifically) to follow up on our Taghkanic Talk from October on Affordable Housing. Many members were on board with that, and Doug was going to follow up at the upcoming Affordable Housing event at the Roe Jan library to see what was developing. Charlene may approach the Board to see about creating an Affordable Housing Committee.
- Doug relayed his conversation with Lauren from the WTD. It seems the diner will be closing for 6 months or more to undergo major renovations. Lauren indicated they are still interested and committed to installing EV chargers – possible two sets of 4. The WTD has

purchased the property that lies between their parking lot and the Taconic PKWY. They plan to renovate that plumbing, electrical, some structural elements, install a ramp, and resurface the parking lot with a permeable gravel substrate.

- Tony received notice from the DEC on data for the upper section of the Taghkanic Creek. We might want to apply for a grant to get water assessment data on the lower Taghkanic Creek, which is listed as a trout stream and also for aluminum pollution.
- Doug and Betsy tried to explain that we would soon be eligible for a grant of \$50,000, but this was confusing. [Post meeting follow up: Doug sent around information showing the town would be eligible for a grant of \$50K when we reached 3000 CEC points. We currently stand at 2700 points. However, we have completed and now submitted the documentation for actions (Lighting upgrades at TH and Garage; heat pump installations in town) that will take us beyond the 3000-point level, so we expect to hear soon that we are eligible for a \$50K grant].