

## Report of the Climate Smart Communities Task Force Feb 22 2024 Meeting

- Bets spoke about the plan that is developing to plant trees at Taconic State Park. Eli indicated that Gallatin will most likely join Taghkanic in the activity. Gallatin is doing trail work in the park on May 11<sup>th</sup>, filling in muddy trails with gravel and that sort of thing. This was considered to be a good date to combine both activities. Peter will check with the CLC to see if there are any grants available. He has also mentioned this activity to Troy, who is now the director of the CLC. They hold land (ca. 140 acres) adjacent to the park that will ultimately go to the TSP and which will require some degree of reforestation. The CLC has a modest grant program, maybe up to \$1k. They may fund trees for this parcel of land.

Trees for Tribes is another potential source of trees, stakes, and tubes. The dead line has passed, but Bets will reach out to them anyway to see if they would consider the site (does TSP have sites that are consistent with TFT planting?).

- No update on the EMC.
- Doug announced that the Taghkanic CSC was notified that our recent submission of our Clean Heating and Cooling results were accepted by NYSERDA, pushing our CEC score beyond 3000 points and making us eligible to apply for a \$50K grant.

He also indicated some optimism that we would learn this week about the status of our grant application to PCA for funding to cover solar panels and heat pumps at the town garage. (**Spoiler alert:** found out the next day that we were denied this time.)

- Bets went over the status of preparations for the Feb 28 Taghkanic Talk / Energy Forum. Everything seems to be in place, pizza arranged, a few posters to still be put up. There will be presentations by Paul Stathis (heat pumps), Allie Naganuma (Community Solar campaign), Christina Bonsack/Fiona Hynes (weatherization).
- Perry announced there will be a Repair Café at the Claverack Library on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Taghkanic will help by looking locally for repair coaches.
- Doug reminded folks that we need to prepare for how we would use any grant funds that we receive. Our stretch-goal this year is to attain 5000 points by Oct 1, which would enable us to apply for an additional \$100K grant.