



Climate Smart Kingston
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 481-7339

Meeting Notes

Wednesday September 3, 2014
City Hall Conference Room 1
4:00-5:30pm

Present: Betta Broad, David Bruner, Michael D'Arcy, Jeff Domanski (phone), Melissa Everett (phone), Gai Galitzine, Emilie Hauser, Pam Krinsky, Julie Noble (chair), Jennifer Schwartz-Berky, Gregg Swanzey

I. Climate Smart Kingston Formalization

Julie presented the final adopted Resolution #120 of 2014, the formation of the Climate Smart Kingston Commission, which was adopted by the Common Council on June 3, 2014. She laid out the general details of what the transition to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission would look like.

- General: mayor appointed members, Julie Noble as Chair, voluntary two year terms, 11 voting/3 non-voting/7 ex-officio members
- Appointment Process: open application process, applications were made available in paper copy, will be available on the Climate Smart Kingston page of the city's website, and will be emailed out to the Climate Smart Kingston email distribution list; applications will be due by the end of September and Julie will be putting out press announcements of the open applications. Applications will be reviewed by the mayor and appointments will be made, followed by adoption by the Common Council.
- Establishing the Commission: General first steps will include adopting a mission and vision, establishing goals and priorities, establishing focus areas for action, and setting a yearly meeting schedule.

There was some discussion about the process including the Commission's role with the city, whether it would be reviewing proposals, if it will be advisory, whether there will be a budget, whether there will be attendance requirements of members, about ex-officio appointments and suggestions that perhaps the County Department of the Environment could fill one those seats and about the application review process. More info will follow as the transition unfolds.

II. Climate Smart Kingston 2014 Goals: Reporting and Communications

a. Marketing/Communications Strategy

Melissa mentioned that she hadn't spoken with Arthur recently about communications and Julie and Melissa will both reach out to him to catch up on marketing and communications strategies updates. Melissa offered to map out some press releases that can accompany the initiatives of Climate Smart Kingston.

There was a discussion regarding the Climate Smart Kingston Facebook presence and who can be administrators. Currently there are a few for CSK. Michael D'Arcy will draft a set of social media posting guidelines for CSK to adopt and follow.

Julie shared the take away strategies for implementation that were suggested at the Cool City Café, which all present had attended. They included:

- "Ulster Savings Bike"/"Citi-Bike" Type bike share program, have bikes at Trailways, Library
- Speak at gatherings
- Promote Energy Advocates, continue strong, especially at housing complexes

- Have CSK as a clearinghouse for sustainability
- Use whimsical messaging in communications and outreach
- Utilize contests and incentives to engage the community in sustainability efforts
- Host a “Go Green Kingston/Sustainability Festival” in Kingston
- Promote recycling implementation/enforcement especially with institutions
- Encourage and promote institutional Climate Smart Pledges and recognize those that have pledged
- Make energy efficiency improvements to the windows in City Hall

There was some discussion about possible local partnerships and grants for bike racks and bike share programs and Jennifer mentioned her interest, perhaps with assistance from Pam Krinsky, to pursue these, first reaching out to Bike Friendly Kingston and the Kingston Land Trust, who both play major roles in the bike initiatives of Kingston. A collaborative bike ride was suggested for public engagement and visibility.

b. Renewables Strategy (*Melissa Everett*)

Melissa briefly updated the group on the Renewables Strategy progress:

- Melissa has had several Sol-Art meetings with Gail Lennstrom and a couple other volunteers & one with Gregg Swanzy. She is envisioning a workshop with potential sites (e.g. commercial/ arts buildings like Cornell St., Seven21, Library, etc.) and facilitating demonstrations starting small and building up, gathering lots of interesting models from lights to benches to stained glass
- She has been refining a plan for a Solarize initiative with Catskill Mountainkeeper, as well as technical assistance with NY SUN PV Trainers Network - possible workshop this fall and definitely January (on zoning, training for fire officials, etc.). She is hoping to hear from NYSERDA in Sept or early Oct on SHV’s big funding. There will be a Solarize interest meeting at the Kingston Library on September 25 at 7:00pm and more info about this event will be out soon.
- She is starting to figure out an approach to the historic district commissions and NGOs with Jennifer Schwartz-Berky’s help, and considering ways to fund a consensus building initiative about solar guidelines for historic districts; funding may be needed.
- She is working with Emilie Hauser & Margie Menard, creating a plan for the library and other institutions to serve as peer mentors for the nonprofits, businesses and public agencies that want to follow in the climate smart footsteps of the library. They will be approaching and Carnegie as a core team to start. This project will be organizing and publicizing through the fall and they do a workshop in January or February.
- Melissa mentioned that she has sent Julie information about solar permitting and that there could be CFA funding available up to \$2500 for municipalities.

c. Energy Advocates (*Michael D’Arcy*)

Michael updated the group with a progress report on the Energy Advocates Program, of which 125 residents currently enrolled in the 10% Challenge, with 82 home energy assessments completed. There was a request from Jennifer for some background speaking points for Advocates and Michael has this, will share after the meeting. The role of Energy Advocates could be to promote the program with individuals and groups, host a potluck, staff a table, and get people to know about home energy audits as well as Climate Smart Kingston’s work. There was a discussion about how to engage more members of the community as Energy Advocates and how tabling at every Kingston Farmer’s Market might hit many numbers, as the two events at the summer market reached over 150 people. Michael suggested ways for RUPCO to partner with the city and how to get the word out using combined resources, for

example, placing a banner advertising the Energy Advocates and 10% Challenge on the Broadway underpass and tabling at every city event. Emilie mentioned some barriers for renters and for some homeowners, such as not being willing to have anyone come into their homes or not having control over making decisions about energy upgrades in the home. Upcoming events were mentioned for potential tabling and how establishing a Google Calendar for CSK members to post relevant sustainability events on would be something to create. Michael will develop this. Events include: October 12: Forsyth Nature Center Fall Festival; November 28: Green Friday in Forsyth Park (a sustainability fair); September 23, YMCA Farm Project Harvest celebration with the screening of Green Cities.

d. Broadway Corridor Streetscape Grant and Sewage Treatment Plant Energy Reduction Design Collaboration (*Gregg Swanzey*)

Gregg offered that there is no action to be taken as of yet on these projects by Climate Smart Kingston. He commented that state agencies are currently contracting with firms for the Broadway project and that the city has engaged Barton and Loguidice as the firm to complete the Long Term Control Plan for the Sewage Treatment Plant.

e. Governmental Energy Upgrade

Casey was not able to attend meeting, so Julie will follow up with him on the recommendation for the City Hall Windows.

f. Comprehensive Plan Language Integration

The next Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meeting date is being set up by the Planning Department and hasn't been announced yet. Julie and Gregg, who sit on the Comprehensive Plan committee, along with a number of other sustainability minded community groups reviewed the first draft in June and July, and submitted collaborative comments to the Comp Plan Consultants in mid-July. Julie, Gregg, Emilie, Jennifer and a few others on CSK will keep working closely on this effort.

g. Climate Action Tracking Online-*Tabled*

III. Waterfront Flooding Task Force (*Emilie Hauser*)

Julie mentioned that she will follow up with VHB to see about the possibility of the technical assistance being used to evaluate the feasibility of Kingston entering into the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.

Emilie mentioned that the Consensus Building Institute has a grant to bring the four communities working on sea level rise adaptation on the Hudson River together to provide implementation support and that in the near future, Kingston will be contacted to convene as part of this effort.

Upcoming Sustainability Events (event announcements made at the meeting)

- Repair Café, Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church, September 6, 11:00-4:00
- Lecture at SUNY New Paltz, September 16, Speaker Bill McKibbin
- Zero Waste Planning Forum, September 18, Coykendall Auditorium, SUNY New Paltz
- Climate March in NYC, September 21, buses available from Kingston
- YMCA Farm Project Harvest celebration with the screening of Green Cities, September 23
- Solarize interest event, September 25, Kingston Library, 7:00pm
- New Paltz Environmental Task Force meeting dates: Sept. 16, 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 11, Dec. 9

Julie will send out a Doodle poll for the next Climate Smart Kingston meeting date.