

NYACK SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Attending: Don Hammond, Almu Bosch, Aaron Sterling, Gini Stollendorf, Theresa Bergen, Bruce Kenney, Jim Politi, Dave Zornow, Marcy Denker

Monthly Meetings

The Climate Smart Communities certification has been submitted, and the committee can now plan to become involved in planning and carrying out new actions for 2019. We should plan to meet every month going forward.

Action

- *Marcy will reach out to the full group to determine the best regular meeting time.*

Committee Roles

Committee members are encouraged to keep abreast of Sustainable Nyack activity and contribute information, share questions and ideas, write articles, and find ways to spread the word among friends and associates in the community.

Plastic Bag Project

Nyack High School students will participate in a public awareness campaign. (See attachment.) Marcy talked to the vendors at the farmers market, and there is a lot of support for launching the campaign reminding shoppers about bringing their own bags and educating the public, but it became clear that the vendors who rely on plastic bags for certain products (like frozen meat in warm weather) will be looking for clear guidance on what is permitted. So we should move forward quickly to present a draft ordinance with alternatives to the Village Board this winter and work towards passing an ordinance in the very near future.

Action

- *Marcy will draft proposed single use bag law and circulate to the committee for comment.*

Climate Action Plan

Marcy submitted an application to join ICLEI and plans to get guidance from them before the next meeting. The process of developing the plan will involve discussions of goals, objectives and tasks across a variety of sectors, including transportation, building energy, waste management, etc. We will have public workshops during the year. The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a clear road map and timeline for making meaningful reductions in carbon emissions. It will address municipal and community-wide emissions. We can also decide to include climate change resiliency and preparedness.

Action

- *See the [Dobbs Ferry Climate Action Plan](#) to get an idea of what we are aiming to do.*

LED Streetlights

RFP for fixtures will be issued in January. There will be a public workshop about the streetlight project on February 14th

Action

- *Marcy will circulate draft FAQs soon to committee for comments before making them public.*
- *Mark your calendars for the public workshop . at 6:30.*

Key Community-wide initiatives to Get to Know

Community Choice Aggregation. See this link for an overview of how this works and how many communities in Westchester have done it and have also decided on the green power option. There are various companies that municipalities can work with to do this. Upper Nyack is working on a plan, and Rockland County has had some discussions recently.

Action

- *Marcy will get more information from Upper Nyack and others and share. Any member who is interested in helping to move this forward should let Marcy know.*

Community Solar

Several projects to come on line soon. Marcy suggests that we plan to understand the differences between them and possibly plan for a workshop to help people understand how it works.

Action

- *Any member who is interested in helping to move this forward should let Marcy know.*

Residential Energy Efficiency

We can start helping residents take advantage of programs for energy efficiency upgrades by working with NYSERDA's regional outreach coordinator on a public workshop session. Marcy can provide detailed info on the programs. To develop an effective outreach program will take time, but it would be great to get started.

Action

- *Any member who is interested in helping to move this forward should let Marcy know. I'll meet with you to go over the basics and discuss how to take the next steps. It will involve reaching out to people who can help connect us with low- and moderate-income residents.*

Ongoing Outreach

Don suggested keeping sustainability news items with links to more detailed info in his updates on the website. Dave stressed the importance of repeating messages. We discussed the value of trying our new things, like the video of the EV charging stations.

Action

- *Marcy will make a point of sending updates to Don. Aaron will look into the idea of having info about Sustainable Nyack that can be accessed with a bar code.*

Legislation

Brief discussion of the following issues. More at future meetings.

- **Green Power Policy** - Propose a green power purchasing policy for the Village.
- **Leaf Blowers** - Committee in general agreement that it is time to propose regulations on leaf blowers again, as the public education approach four years ago was not adequate.
- **State and Federal Laws** - Committee members may bring forward proposed laws on the environment that the Village may want to support. See Citizens Climate Lobby.