

Village of Nyack Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes November 12, 2020

Attending: Steve Cea, Dana Harkrider, Janine Reiman, Joel Newton, Dave Zornow

DISCUSSION

1. Community Solar and CCA. Peggy Kurtz of Upper Nyack spoke and answered questions as a representative of Joule Community Power about the Community Solar add-on to CC. It is an opt-in program. South Nyack has become the fourth of the six communities in our CCA to opt for offering Community Solar. Upper Nyack's Green Committee has decided to recommend that their Village do so. After discussion of what Community Solar is and how to best communicate about it, the committee agreed to support a recommendation to the VB to offer it now.

Customers who take Community Solar through our CCA ([Rockland Community Power](#)) earn a \$50 for the a community project fund that can be used for a green (or possibly other) community project. During the roll out of CCA and Community Solar in Orangetown, Clarkstown, and Haverstraw, the funds were dedicated to COVID related projects. We have time to think about what kind of project we may want to suggest. Marcy and Peggy will assemble the template letter for the board and outreach material from other communities, and communicate with the Board in November. [Next and last Village Board meeting of this year is December 10.]

2. Bi-monthly digest--Marcy offered to set up a regular email green news update for keeping our local green committees and other local and relevant groups and individuals up to date and connected (Piermont to Haverstraw core contributors to start. Nothing slick. Would be brief with links to more info-- gleaned from minutes, relevant articles- obvious relevance to local initiatives, book recommendations. Janine said it is important to provide info on small things people can do right now during COVID. Dave suggested calling it Green Scene. Marcy will draft an example and circulate for additional feedback.

WORKING GROUP REPORTING

Energy

1. NYSERDA Energy Navigators Program Steve has completed a 10 week training to become an Energy Navigator, and he has started to develop an outreach

agenda for reaching community members about energy efficiency programs available that can save money and help NYS reach its emissions reduction goals. A program is planned at Nyack Library Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.

2. Concrete
 - a. Webinar November 16 [Action Seminar: Low carbon concrete and local government leadership](#) Town of Hastings Mayor is a speaker.
 - b. Marcy will meet with Jim Politi next week and hopes to advance 1) Nyack low carbon concrete policy and 2) using ashcrete in Depew Ave and TAP projects.

Ecological Landscaping

1. Marcy described the Earth Matters article on leaf management as an example of the synergies we need to reinforce among groups and concepts (pollinators, composters, economics of landscape). Dana reported that the Pollinator Pathway has an installation underway in the county and had a very good meeting with Nyack Garden Club.

Transportation

1. Dave reported on a collaboration with Rockland Bicycle Club and Rockland County Health Dept. to produce a brochure and banners related to safety on the roads, with important support from police departments. Article to describe it all will be in NNV on 11/14.

Materials Management

1. Rockland Composters, the group from the three Nyack villages and Haverstraw (so far) that is working to promote composting (backyard and drop off food scrap) is making headway. Joel has set up a FB page and the group will start to work on messaging. Also working with a company called Community Compost that would operate (fee-based) in our area given enough demand.