

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Town of Jay Climate Smart Task Force** --- 04/23/2023, Community Center, 5:05 – 6:34 pm

**Participants:** Knut Sauer (Chair), Wally Walters (Recorder), Tyler Eaton, Lana Gokey, Matt Stanley (Town Supervisor)

**On-line (Zoom):** John Culpepper, Katie Culpepper, Carlie Leary (Climate Smart Coordinator for North Country DEC programs)

**Absent:** Jennifer Perry

**Handouts** (email): email notice, Agenda, Minutes 01/30/2023, Clean Energy Communities program summary

- 1) Call to Order (Knut), 5:05 pm. The second meeting of the Jay Climate Smart TF.
  
- 2) Town Receives Grant (Knut): The town received a grant for \$53,292 to purchase six level 2 charging ports for EV vehicles.
  - equipment only; NYSEG has a ‘make ready’ program
  - obtaining quotes for possible locations; uncertain re details to get finished and in place
  - Town of Black Brook already has chargers across from Town Hall
  - another step toward earning a designation grant (\$5K) from NYSERTA
  
- 3) Approval of Minutes (Wally): unanimously approved with minor corrections
  - comment: an inventory of town buildings is available
  
- 4) Neighborhood Scale Composting (John):
  - an inexpensive community system consists of a 4’ or 3’ diameter polyethylene drum on a pallet
    - in use in various locations in NY and VT; 4’ drum can hold 1800 pounds of material
    - with aeration/stirring, can result in compost in weeks; reaches temperatures up to 130 F
    - cost of materials about \$700; compost useful for gardeners
    - community has to figure out who monitors, stirs, empties compost (requires lift equipment)
  - discussion:
    - a way for a town to get started at low cost; commercial systems can cost \$35K
    - community composting has doubled across USA in recent years
    - Little Farmhouse Flowers (Stickney Bridge Road) has one (Katie oversees)
    - DEC requires large-scale food scrap generators (4000+ lb/week) to compost; at some point DEC will require this of medium-scale food scrap generators; someday, every home may be required to segregate out compostable material
      - community challenges: management, collection, monitoring and distribution
      - Essex county has a solid waste TF; seeks to have county owned, town run transfer stations
      - putting together a plan would involve multiple possibilities for composting: use of home compost barrels, segregated waste collection by companies, composters as part of transfer stations (Jay does not have such a station)

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### 5) Initiatives for Spring/Summer 2023 (Knut):

- intent is to start small and build up to larger climate efforts
- benchmarking building energy use (would require Town Board resolution)
  - would involve town buildings >1000 sq ft
  - not involve fire station buildings (managed by fire districts)
  - may qualify toward energy efficiency grants
- community campaigns, to get 5+ households to sign up for heat pumps and/or solar panels
  - energy audits do not qualify for grants
  - consider doing an energy/climate table at 4 July even; have to proceed carefully in identifying but not advocating specific vendors
  - also want to identify/disseminate NYS and federal incentives/tax credits
- ANCA prepared to help with benchmarking and campaign development
- discussion: intent to do campaign for solar and heat pumps at 4 July event

### 6) Call for more TF members? (Knut):

- discussion & decision: hold off for now from seeking more TF members
- perhaps signup possible volunteers at 4 July; then advertise for members using Jay News

### 7) Next Meeting: **5 PM May 21, 2023 at Community Center and by Zoom**

8) Adjourned at 6:34 pm