

MONTHLY MEETING, 7/14/2021

ATTENDEES

Committee Members: Robert Fischman, Daniel Welsh, Janet Harckham, Thomas Kelly

Lewisboro Residents: Meir Alkon, Tania Henderson

AGENDA

Acceptance of the May 2021 Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting minutes were unanimously accepted
 - a. June 2021 meeting had been cancelled

Membership

1. Lewisboro civic organization outreach - Robert Fischman
 - a. No update at this time
2. New committee members
 - a. Discussion about the soliciting interest among Lewisboro residents to participate in this committee. Dan Welsh and Bob Fischman to prepare a notice to community to be posted digitally on website and social media pages.

Communications

1. Draft Mission Statement - Janet Harckham
 - a. No update
2. Katonah-Lewisboro Times Letters to the Editor - Robert Fischman
 - a. EV / Charging station article published on April 19, 2021
 - b. Upcoming article topics
 - i. Climate change impacts and local initiatives
 - ii. NYSERDA Clean Energy Community grant / Electric battery powered lawn care

Alternatives to Automobile Transportation

1. Blink EV Charging Proposal - Robert Fischman

- a. Discussion about viability of all proposed locations. It was noted that even if usage might be low at a given site, the charging stations provide a resiliency benefit to residents and municipal vehicles in the event of localized power outages.
- b. Dan reported that Michel Delafontaine has assumed responsibility for the EV and charging station programs at Sustainable Westchester. Dan will request that a call be scheduled with himself, Michel, Tony Gonçalves, Robert Fischman, and other interested committee members to review the proposals so that Lewisboro can make a decision about moving forward with the installation and operation of EV charging stations at Town-owned sites.

Green Building Technology

1. Onatru Park building energy data update - Robert Fischman
 - a. Robert has coordinated with the Town Supervisor and the Town's Facility Maintenance Manager and is awaiting the receipt of historical energy use data in order to begin work on an energy baseline as a benchmark. Billing records are maintained by the Highway Department Secretary.
2. Current Onatru improvement plan status - Dan Welsh
 - a. Robert reported that the Facility Maintenance Manager believes that there is very little life left in the existing boiler at the farmhouse office building and that energy efficient upgrades would improve the functionality of the facility. Dan felt that there is a way forward to undertaking a whole building upgrade as long as the improvements will pay for themselves over the life of the measures.

Master Plan Development

1. Town of Lewisboro Steering Committee regarding the Town's Master Plan - Dan Welsh
 - a. Chris Coccaro to develop draft presentation for steering committee - No update

Climate Smart Community and Clean Energy Community

1. Certifications and delegation of tasks and roles - Robert Fischman
2. NYSEDA Clean Energy Community Grant - Dan Welsh reported that the Town of Lewisboro has been designated as a Clean Energy Community and has been awarded a \$5,000 grant as result of having completed four (4) High Impact Actions, including credit for two Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) initiatives, LED Streetlight upgrades and enabling Open C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing.

- a. Discussion ensued about potential projects. It was noted that the grant use application would need to be submitted by August 26, 2021 in order to receive the funds. After consideration of several project ideas, the Committee determined that the best and highest use of the grant funds to maximize community engagement and reduce GHG emissions would be to create a discount program for community members to purchase electric battery-operated lawn care equipment, especially leaf blowers, and to encourage the trade-in of gas-powered equipment.
 - b. Dan Welsh suggested that AGZA, the American Green Zone Alliance, has operated such programs elsewhere and could provide guidance and some assistance in designing and managing a discount / trade-in program. Dan noted that there are adequate funds from Community Solar rebates that could be applied toward program management.
 - c. As time is of the essence, Robert Fischman will present the Committee's recommendation to the Town Board at its next meeting on July 26, 2021 to obtain the Board's authorization to advance the application to NYSERDA and operate the program.
3. Additional CEC High Impact Action opportunities - Discussion ensued about the advantages of adopting the following additional measures, including sustainability benefits, ease of advancement and potential for resulting additional grant funds such as other Westchester communities have received.
 - a. Unified Solar Permit - Could revisit this with the Town Board
 - b. Energy Code Enforcement Training - Ask the Supervisor to direct the Building Inspector to take the next available training course
 - c. Clean Energy Upgrades - Onatru Farm can serve as a good starting point for this.
 - d. Benchmarking - Greenhouse Gas Inventory: Town Board is willing to conduct the survey pending RFP and solicitation.
 - e. Clean Fleets - Town has just purchased a hybrid police vehicle. EV charging infrastructure is already under consideration.
 - f. NY Stretch Code - Other neighboring communities are already adopting this.

New Business

- NYS CAC (New York State Conservation Advisory Council) Virtual Meeting is scheduled for October 21 - 24, 2021. Janet Harckham advised that the meeting will use the "Gathering Town" virtual platform and that Committee members are encouraged to participate.

NOTES

- Next meeting August 11th, 2021

ACTION ITEMS

1. Dan Welsh to arrange telcon with Sustainable Westchester regarding EV charging infrastructure
2. Robert Fischman to present Clean Energy Community grant proposal for sustainable lawn care equipment to Town Board
3. Committee members to submit proposed topics for newspaper editorials / letters to editor
4. Chris Cocco to develop draft presentation for steering committee