

# MONTHLY MEETING, 6/15/2023

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## Meeting Details:

Time: June 15, 2023 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87482637402?pwd=bFl6OXNFZ3RxZ1RUaExlWEIxQ2M4dz09>

## ATTENDEES

Committee Members: Bob Fischman, Robert Whittaker, Tom Kelly, Bob Karpel

Town Board Liaison: Dan Welsh

Lewisboro Residents:

## AGENDA

### Acceptance of the May Meeting Minutes

1. Motion to accept minutes made by Bob Fischman. Motion seconded by Tom Kelly. Vote unanimous.

### Waste Reduction Initiatives

1. Paintcare Trade-in Program - Andrea Rojas.
  - a. Tom reported in absence of Andrea and Chris. Tom spoke to Green Sheen about Purchase's upcoming event and Green Sheen provided final numbers to the successful event to Chris and/or Andrea for the Lewisboro event. Numbers will be provided at the next meeting.
  - b. Purchase event was advertised in Lewisboro social meeting forums.
2. Recycling Center - Bob Karpel
  - a. Bob Whittaker advised that Win Waste does not recycle the plastic bags as the plastic bags damage their machinery.
  - b. Suggestion made to remove plastic bags from recycling to prevent Win Waste machinery issues moving forward.
  - c. Win Waste's website has what they take and don't take. However, on the containers, they do not list what they do and don't take.
  - d. Plastic bags are put into garbage which is sent to the Wheelabrator garbage-to-energy plant. The ash is then landfilled.
  - e. If we have a bin at the recycling center and find the right partner then the plastic bags could be repurposed/recycled.
    - i. Plastic film industry recycling site  
<https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/find-drop-off-location/>

- f. If there is a lot of volume, Win Waste staffers don't have time to empty useful recyclables in plastic bags, they just take the full plastic bag off the conveyor belt and throw in the garbage.
- g. Bob Fischman to reach out to Neil Cutler to ask for his expertise on waste management.

## Town Coordination

1. Recycling Center Staffing - Bob Karpel
  - a. *Thought: could we merge this with the role that was called for in our climate emergency resolution, and make the position more interesting and impactful?*
    - i. *There is no town budget set aside for merger of both ideas. We need to create a job description for 20 to 30 hours per week.*
    - ii. *Tie together with grant funding*
2. *Sustainability Coordinator concept: Potentially work with a neighboring town to create a shared town position (that might encompass the recycling center duties?). - Dan to vet concept with S/V at LB and PR.*
3. *Food waste and composting, need point person to lead effort. Discussion encompassed both residential and commercial establishments. Curbside compost especially for restaurants to make it financially worthwhile or at least break even and use curbside compost as a way to differentiate its business from other businesses that don't participate.*

## Energy

1. Solar Campaign Funds - Dan Welsh
  - a. Dan to push everyone to vote on Tricider  
(<https://www.tricider.com/admin/2eD1P8ZeiTR/EioZAKw0Xm9>)
  - b. There is approximately \$8,700 available to spend.
2. Solar Code - Tom Kelly
  - a. Dan and Tom will continue to discuss. Part of the discussion focused on cross referencing solar, thermal and energy storage and/or creating independent code for each technology.
  - b. Creating proper tiers for renewable energy systems.
  - c. Potentially create a task force with Leo Weigman and Sustainable Westchester to create county-wide solar code.
3. GHG Inventory - Dan Welsh
  - a. Yonkers just announced Climate Action Plan which was in the news.
  - b. Taking Yonkers cue, we should find ways to create one as well.
4. Direct Pay tax credits-Bob Fischman
  - a. As a result of the Inflation Reduction Act passage, non profits, religious ed, municipalities now have a pathway to proceed with improvements for renewable energy which can receive a tax credit from 30% base credit to up to 50% if use american made materials and pay prevailing wages, each worth 10% apiece.
  - b. Appears to be able to add to other grants and rebates for specific technologies but not total project costs.
  - c. [U.S. Department of the Treasury, IRS Release Guidance on Provisions to Expand Reach of Clean Energy Tax Credits Through President Biden's Investing in America Agenda | U.S. Department of the Treasury](#)

## New Business

1. Clean Energy Community program refresh - new dollars and opportunities (<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Communities>)
  - a. *Might be helpful to do a matrix thing like we had for Climate Smart*
  - b. *The U.S. Department of Energy recently announced a new \$45 million [Renew America's Nonprofits](#) program that will provide 5-15 prime recipients between \$3 million to \$9 million in grant funds which will then be re-granted to subrecipients up to \$200,000 each to complete high impact energy efficiency projects. [Dan to check if SW has applied to serve as prime]*
2. Westchester Power - 50% for 2024 😞
  - a. Price increase nominal for renewable energy program. Letters were sent.
  - b. Auction going out on the 27th. REC market tight right now. All town boards have agreed to move forward.
  - c. Use supply program to include community solar projects
3. Recent air quality scare - communications "opportunity"
  - a. This is not an international problem, it affects us all. Create messaging about air quality.
  - b. Potentially grant funding for a center of refuge for Lewisboro building by incorporating energy efficiency and or renewable energy, building resiliency, and predictive analytics through a building management system.
  - c. Work with other town entities to coordinate a long-term response to not only air quality but energy grants/credits available.

## NOTES

- Next meeting July 20, 2023

## ACTION ITEMS

1. Bob Fischman to reach out to Neil Cutler to ask for his expertise on waste management.
2. Dan to push everyone to vote on Tricider
3. Dan and Tom will continue to discuss solar code.
4. Dan to reach out to Leo at Sustainable Westchester about solar code.