

MINUTES
CHESTER CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 26, 2024 – 7:00 PM Eureka Books & More, Sugar Loaf, NY

Attendance

In-person: Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn, Justin George, Grayson Sussman Squires, Susannah Devine, Bill Greene, Martine DiPasquale

On-Zoom: EJ Szulwach, Brandon Holdridge, Helen Flavin

Approval of Minutes

On a motion offered by Justin George and seconded by EJ Szulwach to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on December 15, 2023.

7 in favor/ 0 opposed: MOTION CARRIES

Committee Reports

- A. New members Bill Greene and Martine Guerrier introduced themselves to the committee.
- B. EJ Szulwach reported that all town buildings, including Highway, Police, and Town Hall continue to have lights on in places where no one is working. He was happy to hear that the SLPAC will now use LED lights. He encourages the Town Board to pass a resolution that all replacement lights are energy efficient and are turned off when not in use.
- C. Bill Greene introduced himself to the group and shared an exciting collaboration opportunity with our neighbor, Warwick, for collecting appliances with refrigerants. Last year, Warwick's Coolest Recycling Drive garnered 130 appliances, but more importantly, the recovered refrigerants equated to 500,000 + of greenhouse gases (CO2) and over 7,000 pounds of "light iron".

Additionally, Bill shared how the Village of Warwick has been recognized as a Bronze Level Climate Smart Community. He shared specifics on how they have attained this recognition.

- D. Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn also shared information about the Coolest Recycling Drive and our prospective participation. In speaking with Michael Helme, Sustainable Warwick, it was suggested that we hold a collection day in Chester before the Warwick Drive (April 21-27, 2024). Link for last year's event: <https://www.sustainablewarwick.org/coolest-recycling>

She also shared a scheduled meeting with Melanie Patapis, Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, on Monday, January 29, 2024, at 11:30 AM. Link for Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89029888025>

Elizabeth also discussed the possibility of purchasing trees through a DEC program shared at the January 24th Chester Town Board meeting. We had considered a tree planting day in celebration of Earth Day. Brandon Holdridge will review the information to see if purchasing trees for this event is possible.

- E. Grayson presented his research/proposal "Revising Chester's Code: A Chance for Big Impact". He shared information about Global greenhouse gas emissions and highlighted what we can address as a community. In reviewing our existing Chester code, there is room for improvement as it lacks several key items in best practices for new and existing commercial and residential buildings (i.e., heat pumps, agrivoltaics, EV charging). Grayson pointed out co-benefits and trade-offs in adopting ambitious new codes. Brandon Holdridge added that the Town codes have not been updated since the 1990s. Through this discussion, it was suggested that we have a presence and voice at the Town's Comprehensive Plan committee meeting. The next one is scheduled for February 8, 2024, at 7 PM, at Senior Center, Chester, NY

New Business

- A. The committee discussed the need for an interim chairperson in Jane's absence. Grayson graciously volunteered to take on this position for the group and was unanimously voted in. **7 in favor/ 0 opposed: MOTION CARRIES**
- B. A sign-up sheet was shared to encourage representation at upcoming Town Board, Planning Board, and Comprehensive Plan meetings. See the list below. If you cannot attend, let us know, so other members can attend.
- C. The committee discussed our intended name change to the Chester Conservation Advisory Council. Martine Guerrier offered that we consider Town and Village involvement. Brandon will contact the Chester Village Mayor, Christopher Battiato, about this collaborative effort. The committee voted on a motion offered by Bill Greene and seconded by Grayson Sussman Squires to approve the name change to the Chester Conservation Advisory Council. **7 in favor/ 0 opposed: MOTION CARRIES**

Next Steps

- A. Elizabeth will discuss the proper terminology/protocol addressing the name change to the Chester Conservation Advisory Council with Jane Dysinger and Tracy Schuh before presenting the resolution to the Town Board.
- B. We will also determine a location and date for the Coolest Recycling Drop Off. Susannah and Justin will work on getting the word out through the Town's website and with Linda Zappala. Elizabeth will coordinate with Michael Helme and Bill Greene as we move forward with the recycling collection event. Suggested date: April 13 or April 14, 2024. Location: TBD.
- C. Members will meet with the Climate Smart Community Coordinator on Monday, January 29th at 11:30. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89029888025>
- D. We will continue developing a contact person list. The list will continue to grow as members find connections and contacts for us to reach out to about projects and possibilities.
- E. We will continue to pursue ideas for an Earth Day tree-planting event and ways to support the community (i.e., TREX Challenge, Chester School).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM

Next Meeting:

Friday, February 16, 2024 – 7:00 PM – Eureka Books and More, Sugar Loaf

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82231969982?pwd=dktCK3RMclpTQUtYeGVGUzhCdnBHdz09>

Meeting ID: 822 3196 9982

Passcode: 207166

Town Board Meetings: 7 PM Town Hall	
February 14, 2024	Bill Greene
February 28, 2024	Justin George
March 13, 2024	Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn
March 27, 2024	Grayson Sussman Squires
Planning Board Meetings: 7PM Town Hall	
February 7, 2024	Cancelled
February 21, 2024	Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn
March 6, 2024	
Comprehensive Planning Committee: 7 PM	
February 8, 2024 (Senior Center)	Elizabeth Barrett-Zahn
February 27, 2024 (SLPAC Pavilion)	Justin George
March 14, 2024 (Senior Center)	
March 26, 2024 (SLPAC Pavilion)	Grayson Sussman Squires

Links to view:

1. Sustainable Warwick Coolest Recycling Drive: <https://www.sustainablewarwick.org/coolest-recycling>
2. Climate Smart meeting (1/29/24, 11:30 AM): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89029888025>
3. Grayson's presentation: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1R8rljCt4ocexm6_f5w4WeEIX_wuNzlimlciDDKPD-t0/edit#slide=id.g1efb8e5100c_0_330
4. Hudson Valley Regional Council: <https://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/>
5. Conservation Advisory Councils and Boards: <https://hudson.dnr.cals.cornell.edu/conservation-planning/municipal-role/conservation-advisory-councils>