

Present: Julie Craner, Dave Haldeman (chair), Patty Lee Parmalee (scribe), John Valk, JoAnne Warren  
also Brent Gotsch and Melinda Herzog as guests/presenters

The guests from the Ulster County Cornell Cooperative Extension invite the Town to participate in two projects on climate planning.

The first is "Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool," whose purpose is to help communities identify what they have already done or planned, and help plan further actions in disaster avoidance or mitigation. It has been done with many U.C. communities already, such as Hurley, Woodstock, Gardiner, Esopus, and Lloyd. Generally takes up to 3 months.

After this initial presentation the next step will be a call from them to John Valk, probably early in 2022, to set up an initial meeting (probably on line) with him and departments of buildings and codes, highway, etc. The town should get all relevant documents to them so they can look for existing plans, such as: outreach; adaptation; mitigation; preparedness for heat, storm, and wind; highway dept. training; riparian buffers; plans for vulnerable populations. John will start organizing the documents, and ask Robin to help.

John says the Town did do a hazard mitigation project after the hurricane ten years ago.

There is also an Ulster County hazard mitigation plan which can serve as a template.

The contact people in the Town will be the town clerk, and supervisor, and planning board office (Jane, John, and Robin).

The second is "Climate Smart Communities Assessment," which looks at projects that would make sense to work on and that would get points toward Climate Smart Communities credits. Melinda says, "The more points you have, the easier it is to leverage grants."

The process generally involves 4-6 meetings.

Discussion:

Dave: the County is working on a county-wide natural resource plan.

Our stream buffer plan is not yet presented to the Town Board. May have to wait for next year.

Julie's presentation to them about charging stations seems to have been well received. Dave has contacted Central Hudson, and Julie will do further research on line, maybe also with NYSERDA.

Rail trail: Tracey Bartels (UC Legislator) wants a sitdown with a full Dept. of Corrections. Note there is an issue with one small part going through private property.

The Mako project is on hold due to controversy with the DEC about the northern harrier.

Solar project on Garrison: we will walk it with Planning Board once details are ready.

Recommendation to Planning Board: Dave will write a letter suggesting in site plan reviews/permitting they recommend building with sustainables. Examples are: heat pumps, rooftop solar (especially on warehouses), charging stations for multiple housing, LED lights (downward-facing when outdoors), and low-flow toilets.