

Village of Montour Falls

Sustainability Committee Meeting

March 23, 2021

Present –James Ryan, Chairman; Amanda Rodriguez-Demaria, Ascend Collaborative Development; Mark Wilber, Montour Market; Todd Knobbe, CCE Schuyler CEC Coordinator; Marissa Nolan, CEC Food Waste Educator; Christopher Skawski; Michelle Benjamin, Schuyler Hospital Community Relations; Katherine Herleman, WSP USA, Inc; and Emily Byers, Deputy Clerk.

Todd Knobbe and Marissa Nolan present the Climate Smart Communities status report:

- The Village's current point total: 63
- Revise actions / resubmit: 14
- Completed actions ready to submit: 52
Includes Climate Action Plan, Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and Heat Emergency Plan
- Expired / resubmit: 57
- With CCE help complete: 41
- For Silver Level Certification must have a total of 300 pts, the Village will need to work to get remainder: 73 pts

Heather Gilbert provides an update on the Village's composting bin located at Montour Market/North NY. The bin has collected nearly 250 gallons of food waste. An additional compost bin will be placed at the Montour Marina through the marina season.

Amanda Rodriguez-Demaria provides updates:

- Arbor Day Tree Grant requirements
 - Choose tree from options of Bradford Pear, Eastern Sycamore, and Swamp White Oak.
 - Establish Volunteer Tree Board
 - Hold Arbor Day event, involve school kids in event
- Climate Action Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Village Board

Chris Skawski informs the committee of the Village's intention to re-apply for the RBDG grant, offered by USDA, to benefit the Montour Market. If awarded, the grant would facilitate the purchase of equipment that would in turn expand the market's offerings. They request letters of support from the Sustainability Committee.

Mark Wilber updates the status of the Montour Market:

- On April 1st, North New York and the Montour Market will be closed for 20 days.
- Upon their return the business will be open 6 days a week
- Looking to raise additional funds for the market

Katherine Herleman is working to finalize a quote for approximately \$8,000 to conduct the climate vulnerability assessment that will meet the NYSDEC CSC 8-point criteria. She will send an official email to the Village but the highlight is that we think that keeping the SOW small and plugging into the levee certification contractor's work is the best approach. A more in-depth, quantitative flood risk assessment with forward-looking hydrological models, which could be partially funded by FEMA BRIC or another potential federal funding source, will be much more valuable as a planning and risk reduction tool at a County or a regional watershed level. Further, it will more cost-effective to the Village since other municipalities and the County could potentially share in both the costs and benefits.

Elaine Dalrymple addresses the committee on behalf of the Friends of the Queen Catharine Marsh. She is working with DEC who said they will help, if possible, to repair or replace 'Bernie's Bridge'. She is also working with Bill Meehan of the Finger Lakes Trail for another bridge on the other side.

Goals for this Quarter: Quarterly update from Montour Market
New Grants report
Community GHG Inventory close out
Walking path

Next meeting will be scheduled for June 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Byers, Deputy Clerk
Village of Montour Falls