Village of Montour Falls

Sustainability Committee Meeting

December 14, 2021

Present –James Ryan, Chairman; Amanda Demaria, Ascend Collaborative Development; Todd Knobbe, CCE Schuyler; Katherine Herleman, WSP General Services; Marissa Nolan, CEC Food Waste Educator; Eva Milstein-Touesnard, Energy Intern; Mark Wilber, Montour Market; Osamu Tsuda; Antoinette DiCaccio and Emily Byers, Deputy Clerk.

Committee Introductions to new member, Antoinette DiCaccio.

Amanda Demaria and committee discuss the Sustainability Showcase that was held at the Falls Harvest Festival. It was a huge success, ran smoothly and thanks to all for the hard work and time spent. It was a great place to communicate with the community.

Eva Milstein-Touesnard provides information on some recently completed actions. The Community Solar Campaign is complete, submitted to NYSERDA and approved. The Village receives 200 CEC points and a $5,000 grant. The Code Enforcement training was submitted to NYSERDA, approved and the Village receives 200 more CEC points. With the two above items, the Villlage’s CEC Point total is 4,000 points. This qualifies the Village for a $20,000 grant, as well as, a $10,000 bonus grants for disadvantaged communities. Altogether, that means the Village has been awarded $35,000 from NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program. Eva is now working on:

1. NYSERDA changed the Clean Heating and Cooling Demo action, which no longer requires a cooling system and increased the points awarded to 700 CEC points. Eva is in the process of submitting the necessary documentation for this action which is approved will bring the Village’s CEC point total to 4,700.
2. NYSERDA recently updated the CEC requirements for the Clean Heating and Cooling/Energy Efficiency Campaign to only require 5 participants (3 must include a heater or cooler) for completion and increased the CEC points to 500. Eva states that there are 2 completed signed contracts and 7 participants in the process of enrolling. Therefore, once this action is complete it will bring the CEC point total to 5,200. The Village will receive a $5,000 grant and reaches a threshold to receive a $70,000 grant plus an additional $10,000 grant for disadvantaged communities. This will be a total of $85,000 in grant monies.

Marissa Nolan provides the group with the results of the composting survey and shared progress updates on the Food Scraps program. The survey brought to attention that people are unaware of the composting drop spots.

Jim Ryan notes that Heath Gilbert had let him know that the amount of food waste being taken out of the Village has reached approximately six tons of food waste.

Amanda Demaria updates the committee on the status of the Complete Streets Project and displays the completed draft Complete Streets Plan. She encourages the committee to review and let her know of any questions or necessary changes.

The next committee meeting will be held in March, 2021 at Village Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Byers, Deputy Clerk