

Notes

CSCTF Meeting, 10/3/20

Attending: Suzan Flamm, Colleen Lutz, Derek Porter, Cathy Redlich and Jill Falchi-Henck (CDRPC)

LED Streetlight Conversion

Suzan reported that Victor Narkaj of Central Hudson told the town that the utility would be converting Ancram's streetlights in September. Colleen reported that the new lights seem good. Derek will also take a look and determine whether any additional lights would be helpful. Suzan will find out if there is any light trespass at Simons and/or if a shield was installed on the pole across from the home.

Status of Geothermal HVAC at Town Hall

Suzan reported that a geothermal HVAC system would cost the town about \$57,000 more than a conventional system (after factoring in the NYSERDA grant and utility credits). Suzan attended the town board session on September 17th. The possibility of a geothermal system was on the agenda for discussion. Two board members spoke in favor and none spoke against.

A consultant, GeOptimize, has done modeling work to help design an appropriate system for the building. Bob Travis of the engineering firm used by Ancram, CPL, is working on a design/build RFP. Aztech, a geothermal contractor, provided an estimate several months ago and would possibly bid on the work. Suzan and Jill are searching for other contractors who might also bid. Several who have been contacted have not been interested in working with a municipality because prevailing wage rates apply.

Solarize – Proposal from Solstice

Solstice met with Colleen, Suzan and Jill to describe its community solar subscription program. It is now selling subscriptions in solar farms in Kingston and Westerlo, NY. Colleen reported that Ancram's Conservation Advisory Council supports this initiative, which includes a \$100 incentive to every new subscriber. Solstice will also pay a \$100 incentive to the town for every subscriber. This can be used towards an initiative of the town's choosing. The company would help with the town's solarize campaign to find subscribers. Colleen will follow-up with Alex Goldfarb of Solstice to discuss next steps.

Jill added that NYSERDA may offer stand-alone grant funds of about \$5,000 for towns that undertake a solarize campaign, as long as the campaign elements identified in the NYSEDA model (e.g., a certain number of events and types of communication) are accomplished. Solstice would help the town conform to NYSERDA's requirements so that it would be eligible for grants, and earn credit towards Climate Smart Communities Certification.

Cornell Cooperative Extension; Climate Smart Communities Certification

Suzan spoke with Kelsey West of the Cornell Cooperative Extension. CCE helps towns that would like to achieve Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification. As a first step, they would analyze what more Ancram needed to do to achieve certification, and they would then propose additional actions. These could include a Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool, a Flood Preparedness Guide and a CSC Assessment. Colleen reported that her experience with CCE on a culvert project was very positive.

Columbia County

Colleen reported that Columbia County is interested in designation as a Climate Smart Community. This will require the support of a majority of supervisors. If approved, it's possible that more ambitious energy efficiency and climate resiliency initiatives could be undertaken than are realistic at a local level. If funds are available the county could hire a coordinator for these initiatives.

Next Meeting

TBD