

## GREEN Committee of Clifton Park

Minutes from July 28, 2025

GREEN Committee Members Present: Diana Leis Delker, Diane Betzwieser, Joanne Coons, Nancy Tudor, Anne Orgren, Marc Laymon, Kelsey Sousa

Board Member: Anthony Morelli

Guests: Ella Geskey, Alex Graziano

Nancy Tudor called the meeting to order at 7:00

1. Drop and Swap at Amity Church – discussion led to deferring this project until February. We discussed using the model like St. Edwards where people set up their stuff in the parking lot to give away.
2. Repair Café - Next RC - October 18<sup>th</sup> date (Cathy Fruhauf was not in attendance so this was tabled).
3. Climate Smart Community Bronze Certification Grants - The CSC grant applications are due 7/31/25. A separate subcommittee will be formed to review grant suggestions for the Town for 2026. (Nancy Tudor)
  - a. Nancy talked with Jen Vigiani from the Town about potential projects for grant applications. Updating the CP 2008 Comprehensive Plan was discussed as potential for a grant application. It was decided that Nancy Tudor would send out an email and find out who would like to be on a committee to look into grant options in September. The time is too short to write up a grant for the July deadline. Some options discussed were designated cooling centers, trees on both sides of 46, trees in any areas where people would like to sit and talk, reducing the carbon dioxide, bike and walking trails. Many people have different ideas about what we would like to do for the grant so a meeting would be beneficial to get a variety of ideas.
4. General Meeting of heads of all groups in town that do environmental things was suggested. Anthony and Joanne said they would look into it. (Joanne Coons)
  - a. It was suggested that just the heads of the major committees that have common environmental concerns meet together. Joanne indicated that many groups have their own niche, and it would be good to communicate their different ideas and projects under 1 umbrella group. That way the groups might be able to help each other out on projects that they would be interested in. Joanne will update the lists of committees and persons on

them. It was suggested the group chairs meet every other month. For now, it was suggested that we share our minutes with the other groups.

5. Book Club (Kelsey Sousa)
  - a. a. The Clifton Park - Halfmoon Library has 4 book clubs currently. They are not interested in doing another one. They suggested that a book club could meet at Mocha Lisa's Caffe & Books. To get started it might be a good idea to just get a list of environmental books that could be put on Facebook, town website and in minutes. Kelsey said she would send out an email to ask for our suggestion and then compile them. Some suggestions were Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, Tree Keepers, Heat Will Kill You First by Jeff Goodell, and Water Keepers,
6. Plastic Recycling Presentation by Alex Graziano, Alex Recycles and Creates things with #2 plastics.
  - a. Alex showed us samples of key chains, coasters, and small planter that he made with #2 plastics. This high-density polyethylene (HDPE) is primarily made from petroleum. This durable and versatile plastic is commonly found in milk jugs, detergent bottles, and other household containers. They can melt at around 130 degrees Celsius or 266 degrees Fahrenheit which is higher than the boiling point of water at 212 degrees Fahrenheit or 100 degrees Celsius. He bought machines that can shred the plastics, then melts them on Teflon and puts them in wooden molds. About 1 lb of plastic can make the flower box. He currently sells them at craft fairs. He hopes to expand this into a business. Only about 9% of all plastics get recycled. He would like to expand this to save energy, recycle more plastic, and educate the public. On August 8 at Jeff Blatnik Park in Niskayuna he will be doing a presentation and would like as many people to come as possible. It was suggested that he present to people who come to repair cafes, Science Activity Night and other activities of the Tree and Green committees. Joanne Coons suggested putting the Clifton Park Logo on the key rings. Anthony Morelli said it would have to go through channels. More information is needed as to the hazards of melting plastics, microplastics, and the hazardous chemicals in plastics.
7. CEC Town Hall Audit Update: Meeting was held to address problems that were reported with the HVAC system. Anthony said he would get back to us on this topic at the next meeting.
8. Comprehensive Plan update from 2008 original plan - Anthony Morelli said the town was working to update the plan. Diana asked if the suggestions made on the last one were carried out. Anthony Morelli said the solar farms, updated zoning regulations were just some of the many actions that were taken by the town from the original plan.

9. Meeting adjourned 7:50 PM.