

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH CAC
June 7, 2023 MEETING REPORT
Marlboro Free Library, 6:30 PM

I would like to dedicate this month's report to the memory of Tony Falco in appreciation for all he did for environmental awareness and causes, especially here in Marlborough..

The CAC met at the Marlboro Library on June 7 at 6:30 with 8 members meeting in person and one member via video link.

Our IT committee reported that our Facebook page has been upgraded to public and since then we have received a good response. We invite the public to like Town of Marlborough Conservation Advisory Committee on Facebook and follow our comments and hints.

Our members have outlined some additional steps toward Bronze Certification. We have several projects we are considering.

We created a subcommittee to pursue the effects of light pollution and note several opportunities concerning lighting in municipal buildings and properties for potential credit. The energy audit of municipal buildings and properties is one of our first priorities. We will need to get some documentation from Town records to gather that information and we see that as a logical first step in getting credit for work that has already been done or is in progress.

We shall be looking at the possibility of creating safer biking on our roads as a future project.

Jannelle Koszarek, our Climate Smart Coordinator, is actively working on the EV grant. She also introduced a real opportunity for assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County (CCEUC). Their memo states " Ulster County offers technical assistance on the following NYS Climate Smart Communities Actions to municipalities each year. These projects are funded by the NYSDEC's Hudson River Estuary Program and the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell, with support from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund."

CCEUC assistance to us is free as a Climate Smart Community but the aid is competitive. They require a letter of support from the Town Board to award their consultations. I attached their complete memo along with this report in a separate email to Board members. For this public report, which will be posted on the Town website, I included the CCEUC description as well as a summary of their program.

"Climate Smart Assessment Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County (CCEUC) provides assistance reviewing the NYS Climate Smart Communities actions with the community, usually 1-3 members of the Climate Smart Task Force to determine which NYS Climate Smart Communities actions have been completed, which are planned for completion in the near future and which would be the easiest to accomplish based on conversations with the Task Force members. CCEUC develops a plan for your municipality to complete enough actions to apply for Climate Smart Certification based on conversations with the Climate Smart Task Force members. A report is generated and presented to the Task Force documenting the plan. This project generally requires 6-8 online meetings with one-three designated members of the Task Force.

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“ NYS Climate Smart Submission Assistance Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County (CCEUC) provides technical assistance guiding the community in applying for NYS Climate Smart Communities certification in the online portal. CCEUC works with designated member(s) of the Task Force to create an account, gather the necessary documentation, and upload it into the portal for consideration for NYS Climate Smart Communities Certification. “

Of the several options CCEUC offers, the CAC believes these to be our first priorities to work on. They are titled: Climate Resiliency, Climate Change Education and Engagement, and Social Media. Those descriptions follow. Of course, the CAC is open to working on any other areas you would recommend.

Mrs. Koszarek is investigating the application process to obtain recommended wording for a letter of support for consideration at your next meeting.

PE7 Action: Evaluate Policies for Climate Resilience 6pts

Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County (CCEUC) completes a Climate Smart Resilience Planning tool for your municipality, generating a report which identifies strengths and opportunities for improvement in climate resilience. The process generally requires a 2-hour meeting with municipal officials. CCEUC provides a short presentation summarizing the report to the municipality.

PE9 Action: Climate Change Education and Engagement 6pts

Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County (CCEUC) creates web page content and a print resource template specifically tailored for your municipality focused on Disaster Preparedness. Additionally, a print resource tool kit on disaster preparedness and recovery is shared. CCEUC shares a brief survey with the municipality and generally meets with a designated point person from the municipality 2-3 times to ensure the content is as requested. The Climate Change Education and Engagement project is usually offered simultaneously with the Social Media project, and the meetings are completed as one.

PE9 Action: Social Media 3pts Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County creates a minimum of 12 social media posts for Facebook and Instagram focused on Disaster Preparedness and Recovery. CCEUC shares a brief survey with the municipality and generally meets with a designated point person from the municipality 2-3 times to ensure the content is as requested. The Social Media project is usually offered simultaneously with the Climate Change Education and Engagement project, and the meetings are completed as one. Climate Smart Assessment

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Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12 at 6:30 at the Marlboro Library. The public is welcome to participate.

Respectfully submitted,
Mici Simonofsky, Chair