



Sustainability Oversight Committee

Secretary – Mike Guyon

Sustainability Oversight Committee May 1, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Shubhangi Gandhi, Paul Tankel, Nate Gibbs, Mitch Nellis, Steve Kittelberger, Robin Wilt, Mike Guyon, Brett Carlock, Karen Frutiger, Taylor Brown, Evert Garcia

Minutes: The April 2019 minutes were approved with no revisions.

Announcements:

Old Business

- **CSC Certification Summary**
 - The SOC briefly discussed the recently announced Climate Smart Community Certification to the Town of Brighton. On April 18, 2019, the Town of Brighton, NY was recognized as a Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community. This was the culmination of years of hard work and cooperation by the SOC, members of the community, and Town Staff.
- **Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation**
 - The SOC continued to discuss the request made by the Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) in April. The CCL would like for the SOC to recommend the endorsement of the proposed legislation to the Brighton Town Board. CCL's goal is to have U.S. Representative Joe Morelle join the caucus which supports this bill.
 - The SOC indicated that they continue to support an equitable carbon fee legislation concept but do not necessarily endorse the legislation as currently drafted. Members of the committee indicated that they would want to see a carbon fee mechanism which includes local government participation and a revised distribution of the collected monies.
 - Town staff will draft a letter to the Town board reiterating the SOC's support of an equitable carbon fee legislation concept and distribute to the SOC for review and comment.
- **CAP Funding-Update**
 - The SOC briefly discussed the status of the CAP RFP funding. Funding originally slated for the CAP is not currently available due to the State's reduction in AIM funding.
 - Town staff indicated that NYS recently announced the launch of the ninth round of the Regional Economic Development Council Competition through the State's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). One of the programs available under the CFA is the Climate Smart Community (CSC) Grant

program. The CSC program is a 50/50 grant program which provides funding for municipalities to perform inventories, assessments, and planning projects that advance their ability to address climate change at the local level. Town staff is currently working on submitting a grant application to the CSC Program.

○ **Annual Report**

- Town staff has completed the annual report which concerns the activities and works of the committee for the previous year. The SOC has no further comments on the report and is OK to submit the report to the Town Board for official receiving and filing.

○ **CIP Project Ideas**

- The SOC briefly discussed project ideas to include in the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget review process. The Town's CIP is a budgeting tool/request for capital projects that exceed \$20,000 in expenditures and are planned for completion over the next three years.
- Many of the project ideas for the SOC's review of the CIP going forward will likely originate from the Town's Climate Action Plan. This matter will be discussed further at the next meeting. Town staff will distribute the Draft Climate Action Plan for the committee to review.

○ **Clean Energy Communities Grant**

- Town staff was recently made aware of a NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program which provides grants, up to \$250,000 with no local match for municipalities which have completed at least four of the ten identified high action items.
- Town staff will explore this opportunity and report back to the SOC with their findings. The SOC will submit their ideas for projects which might qualify for the NYSERDA grant opportunity.

○ **Refuse District Discussion**

- The SOC briefly discussed the process involved in petitioning for and establishing a Town refuse district. The SOC indicated that a refuse district is a more sustainable approach to refuse collection as the district would only have one waste hauler collecting refuse on collection day.

○ **Development Update**

- The latest development projects within the Town were briefly discussed.

New Business

Adjournment

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be June 5, 2019, at 7:00 PM.