

## MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

**Date:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024

### **Attendees, In person @ City Hall:**

Jim Berry, Deb Gondek, Tim Pieper, Mike Tuzzo, Jason Kulaszewski, Elliot Lear (MUP student at UB), Kai (Intern @ City Hall)

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm

### **AGENDA TOPICS:**

1) **Approval of July and August Meeting Minutes**

Motion made by Tim; Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.

2) **Solar Simplified Campaign**

Campaign and signups will continue. Austin to follow up with Solar Simplified on timing and total amount of civic contributions (\$50 per household converted to solar). Possible source of funding for NT tree program; discuss other options for using these funds at October task force meeting.

3) **NYSDERDA Clean Energy Grant & \$10k Grant Application**

Clean Energy Grant application submitted; awaiting approval.

4) **Programs for NT Residents**

- Elliot shared information on FHA/HUD programs: Title 1 Property Improvement Loan, Section 203K home loans; weatherization assistance, HEAP, and cooling assistance programs.
- Emily and Elliot to collaborate on ways to promote Empower Plus, NY Sun, Clean Heat, and other programs via CSC social media, NT website, City Market, etc.
- Kai to research additional programs and services for disadvantaged neighborhoods and report out at October task force meeting.

5) **Source Water Protection Initiative**

Final round of revisions sent to state for their review/approval.

Emily will schedule a meeting to prioritize Project Profiles (Appendix B) and submit the Request for Implementation Assistance form, which details the implementation actions to work on with our DWSP2 Consultant. This state-hired consultant offers free technical assistance to help us complete 2-3 tasks listed plan.

6) **DEC Permit Update**

Digihost Title V air permit: Waiting for DEC to announce public comment period.

Calgon Permit: Austin working with attorney to renegotiate contract.

7) **Training Opportunities**

**Friday, Oct 4 (8:30am - 4:00pm): One Region for Climate Action Symposium** at the Center for Tomorrow (UB's North Campus) Features information, resources, and discussions to help local municipalities shape and implement climate mitigation strategies. If you can attend, please RSVP at <https://forms.office.com/r/yzpWEXL6aV>

**October 17-23: Climate Reality:** Online training; registration is open and free. Hear from leading voices in climate science, governance, grassroots organizing, and many more on ways to protect our democracy, overcome climate obstruction, and build a thriving clean energy future for America.

[https://www.climateactproject.org/virtual?variant=2&ms=CRLCUSVTEmail2C0824&utm\\_source=training&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=crlcvirtual24&training\\_source=Email20824\\_2&emci=bca04b5e-8c64-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&emdi=33911831-9064-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&ceid=552144](https://www.climateactproject.org/virtual?variant=2&ms=CRLCUSVTEmail2C0824&utm_source=training&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=crlcvirtual24&training_source=Email20824_2&emci=bca04b5e-8c64-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&emdi=33911831-9064-ef11-991a-6045bdd9e096&ceid=552144)

## 8) Ideas for Team Gatherings

Friday, Oct 25 (5-8pm) @ Buffalo Arts Studio (Tri-Main Building at 2495 Main Street, Suite 500, Buffalo, NY)

Panel Discussion: New Polluters (featuring artists, academics, and grassroots activists)

[https://www.buffaloartsstudio.org/special\\_events/panel\\_discussions/](https://www.buffaloartsstudio.org/special_events/panel_discussions/)

## 9) Other Business

- Mike shared information about the Twin City Highway redesign and opportunity for community input on **Thurs, Sept 19 at Carnegie Art Center (240 Goundry St) at 5:30pm.** The City has begun a planning study to examine the redesign of the 1.2 mile stretch of the Twin Cities Memorial Highway (NYS Route 425) and a 1.1 mile stretch of the adjacent Division Street.  
<https://tcmhforward.org/>
- Tim reminded the group that the PlaNT it Forward program is open and **orders will be taken until October 11.** You can select from a variety of trees to be planted in front of your home or in select public parks (\$85/tree). <https://northtonawandany.myrec.com/info/news/details.aspx?NewsID=4593>
- Elliot shared information about a Sustainability Expo at the Lancaster Fall Fest on **Sept 23 (11am – 3pm)**  
<https://lancastervillageny.gov/sustainability-expo-at-fall-fest/>
- Erin is teaching on Wednesday evenings this semester, so she will miss Sept, Oct, and Nov task force meetings. You can contact Erin directly for any followup actions.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42pm. Motion by Mike, 2nd by Jim.

**Next Meeting:** October 9, 5pm @ City Hall.