

MEETING MINUTES FOR NORTH TONAWANDA CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE

Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Attendees, In person @ City Hall:

Members: Austin Tylec, Emily Root, Deb Gondek, Jim Berry, Tim Pieper, Erin Robinson, Elliot Lear (MUP student at UB), Josh McClain (University at Buffalo Regional Institute), Josh Randall (Natural Resource Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension)

Via Phone: Mike Tuzzo

Meeting called to order at 5:03 pm

AGENDA TOPICS:

- 1) **Approval of November & December Minutes.**
Austin motion to accept; Jim 2nd. Carried.
- 2) **Election of Officers for 2025**
 - a. Deb nominated Erin as Chair, Emily second.
 - b. Deb nominated Tim as Vice Chair, Austin second.
 - c. Austin nominated Emily as Secretary, Deb second.
 - d. Austin made a motion for slate as presented, Mike second. Carried.
- 3) **Debrief on Buffalo/Niagara Climate Challenge Game**
 - a. Josh sent around summary from game. Energy demands associated with cryptocurrency mining is something that was unique to our community. Will be completing additional community engagement through the end of March.
- 4) **Discussion about emerging issues that could impact CRP, strategies, priorities and funding**
 - a. Wildfires in NYS
 - b. Nuclear Energy/Microreactors (NYSERDA)- so new that relevant regulations are lacking for a facility of the size coming to NT. Safety is a concern for our community. This is a priority for us to research in the next several months.
 - c. Trump Administration- regulatory changes through EPA. Data gathering is an important priority in the next few months.
- 5) **Updates on Initiatives in Process**
 - a. NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Grant- completing insulation at Deerwood. Study being completed for Carnegie energy efficiency improvements.
 - b. Source Water Protection Initiative- Plan is complete, uploaded to website and shared on social media. Waiting for the contract with the consultant to be finalized.
 - c. NT's Comprehensive Plan- Draft plan should be wrapped up soon.
 - d. Programs for NT Residents-
 - i. Elliot drafted sample social media post and will share out.
 - ii. North Tonawanda was recently awarded a grant through HCR for exterior improvements to low income houses. Approximately 60 homes interested so far.
- 6) **Review CSC Point Requirements**
 - a. Bronze (renewal)- current certification expires September 2027.
 - b. Silver- reviewed spreadsheet developed by Tim on where we are, what's expiring, and what's needed to get to silver certification. Need to develop strategy for working towards this over the next few years.
Action: Take a look at database and see what actions everyone is interested in leading.

7) Other Business

- a. Recruiting additional task force volunteers
- b. Other business
 - i. Conversation of Niagara County interest in CSC Certification.

8) Agenda Topics for February Meeting

- a. Home for a Gnome Program

Meeting adjourned at 6:22. Motion by Austin, second by Emily.

Next Meeting: February 12, 5pm @ City Hall.