

MEETING NOTES

Sodus Climate Smart Communities Task Force: Monday, May 16, 2022

Present: David Englert (mayor), Patricia McKinny (note-taker), Kate Pobol-Illum, Chrissie Pobol-Illum, Laurie Verbridge (Sodus Point village trustee), Jim Wood (chair), Kim Buell and Sandi Hamilton (Sodus village trustee).

SPECIAL NOTE: ALL AGREED TO MEET AGAIN ON Sept. 19, 2022 unless there was a pressing need for summer meetings. If so, we will contact all with a summer meeting date.

SODUS CEC/CSC ON-GOING INITIATIVES (STATUS CHECKS):

- **Future Joint Initiatives for the Sodus & Sodus Pt. Villages:** Laurie shared that she talked to Kevin Druschel about the feasibility of a joint solar farm initiative on open farm unused land like that recently cleared by Fowler Farms at the old Sodus Fruit Farm on Lake Road. Laurie agreed to share any new ideas or progress at future meetings. Kim shared that during his time on the Town of Sodus Zoning Board of Appeals he has noticed that some town officials are reluctant to lose productive farmland to new solar farms. He also reminded us that when locating a solar array, access to adequate nearby electrical infrastructure (i.e., 3-phase electric) is essential. Further discussion included the importance of information sharing regarding progress toward completing grants for new EV charging stations. Jim shared that when he and Karen Cline worked on the Sodus CSC Bronze Certification application, it was noted that the Village and Town of Sodus shared services and provided support when Sodus Pt. was flooded by high water during 2017 and 2019. However, the shared help was not documented with a MoU and/or other formal documentation and, as a result, could not count for certification points.
- **Wastewater and Water Treatment Improvement Grants:** David reported that three proposals have been submitted and accepted. Ram sent word that the engineering report necessary to secure the Disinfection Grant for the Wastewater/Water Treatment Plant was submitted last Friday (6/17/22). He also updated us that the Wastewater/Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Project originally estimated at \$960,000 has increased to \$1.2 million due to inflation. David shared he expects that the Village of Sodus will be able to borrow the money to cover the gap at zero interest.
- **CSC Bronze Level Process:** Jim shared that we have received the NYSERDA evaluation of our application. We only were granted about half of the required 120 points to achieve Bronze Certification. However, the feedback was very specific and helpful and provided in a transparent way. Jim shared a table that he has created to help with identifying the needed evidence to earn further points. He will work with Karen and Rob Richardson, our Clean Energy Communities (CEC) contact at Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council to

guide our next application deadline on Dec.1, 2022. After reviewing the chart, **all agreed** that since annual energy GHG benchmarking and reporting is worth many certification points, is important to guide our Climate Smart Community priorities ***and requires someone with technical skills and time to complete the task that the Village of Sodus should contract with someone with that skill to do the work each year.***

- **Review Work Chart for CEC 2.0: (David)**
 - ✓ **Review successes and next tasks on the Work Chart: We cheered** our award of 1200 points for the Village of Sodus passing a resolution to adopt the *NYS Stretch Energy Code Standards* for new construction. **We now have earned 3200 points (total) and qualify for another \$10,000 in addition to our award for reaching the 2000-point level (\$5000).**
 - ✓ **Sodus Village Lot & Highway Barn EV Charging Stations: Jim agreed** to reach out to Bill Gautier and Jim Bittner of ValueStack to assess the funding status from RGE and NYS to allow the Village of Sodus to apply for funds to install four more EV Charging Stations at the Village Highway Facility on Gaylord Street. **Laurie reported** that she has had prompt communication with them for the new Sodus Pt. EV Charging Stations initiative She is the Sodus Pt. Trustee contact for the project.

COMPLETED PROJECT UPDATES:

- **Status of EV Charging location signage and installation plan: All cheered** the installation, and **all agreed** that we can remove this agenda item (after two years) from future Sodus CSC Agendas.
- **Sodus Village LED Light Conversion: David shared** that the lights are working fine, but the disputed payment issue between Ubiquita, Colacino Industries and the Village of Sodus has not yet been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

SODUS CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY/CLIMATE SMART FUTURE VISIONING:

- **Sodus Hotel site: David explained** that the underground fuel tanks will be dug up and removed beginning on Wednesday this week (6/22/22).
- **The Intersection of Environmental Justice and Racial Justice: David shared** that he oversees food distribution from Food Link in Sodus and around the Wayne County and that the grant for the initiative will continue through December when it will be reviewed for reauthorization.

Sandi shared that the SNAP reader is operational for the Sodus Farmers' Market at Third United Methodist Church in the village which is open for the 14th consecutive year.

- **Climate Solutions Accelerator Climate Change Program:** No Report.

2022 Meeting Schedule (Zoom @ 6:00 PM): Next meeting Sept. 19, 2022.

Future: Oct.17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19.