

**GREEN COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2019  
2:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kathy A. Stegenga, Chairwoman  
Leigh J. Benton, Barry J. Cheney, Kevindaryán Luján,  
David Church

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Mary Pat Smith, Assistant to the County Executive  
Kate Schmidt, Planner, Planning Department  
Ermin Siljkovic, Recycling Coordinator, Environmental Facilities and Services

Chairwoman Stegenga opened the committee meeting at 2:04 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Lujan addressed the first agenda item which was an update on Repair Café event in Newburgh. He stated that the City of Newburgh held its first Repair Café at Grit Works on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and it was very successful. There were 18 people that came through with assorted items such as; a microwave, a television and lamps. Since there was so much enthusiasm from the community, they will hold another event on the 27<sup>th</sup>. He added that Grit Works received a microgrant on behalf of the Repair Café which means the location will be permanent. The idea of the café is that it will grow in terms of who it is collaborating with so anyone and everyone who is part of volunteering will be 100% free. He is happy to see this was able to happen in the City of Newburgh. Furthermore, it has been proposed to hold a Repair Café in Goshen where there is a suitable location close to the Government Center.

Ms. Schmidt commented that Goshen has been trying to do this for awhile and now that there is a library coming on board, there may be a spot for it.

Discussion continued regarding holding a Repair Café event in the Government Center and different types of items that people bring to get repaired.

The next agenda item was regarding Climate Smart Communities Re-certification and Energy Benchmarking Highlights.

Mr. Church stated the county will be re-certified in April and as a reminder, this county was the first to become certified as a Climate Smart Community. Ms. Schmidt is leading the effort and distributed a copy of the point system to the committee (see original minutes).

Mr. Church pointed out how the county can get more points and the status of each.

Ms. Stegenga asked how many points are needed for re-certification.

Mr. Church replied 120 points are needed.

Mrs. Reed asked Mr. Church if he needs a resolution from the legislature in order to re-certify.

Mr. Church replied there is no evidence that one is needed.

Ms. Schmidt stated that they just need to resubmit these actions.

Mrs. Bonelli asked that Ms. Schmidt explain "In Process" and "Under Discussion" on the point list.

Ms. Schmidt replied that the "Coordinator" and "Task Force" have been approved by the Orange County Planning Board who is now acting as this task force that the State would like. It still needs to be submitted and approved. "Under Discussion" are items that this group, the Planning Department, DPW, and other entities can work on to reach 300 points for the silver level.

Mr. Church moved on to briefly discuss Energy Benchmarking. He stated that Ms. Schmidt has been working with staff and other departments on this and there is still research to be done. They have decided to focus on the 1887 building to get a full set of data and compare it to an energy efficient building. Ms. Schmidt has been gathering information on some other buildings as well and the idea was to focus on the 22 buildings that are the biggest users of electricity and infrastructure. He added that they are still working on the policy for benchmarking and square footage for over 1,000 square feet.

Mr. Benton clarified that it is hard to get electrical itemized bills for these buildings.

Ms. Schmidt stated that is correct, there were some challenges in the beginning, but they are working it out. It is very data intensive but with logins improving, it is becoming better.

The next agenda item was a brief discussion regarding the Community Preservation Act.

Mr. Church explained that a resolution was passed in 2007 (see original minutes) supporting a Community Preservation Act which is the ability of counties and/or towns to establish a Real Estate Transfer Tax to be used for parkland and open space purposes. Warwick did it very successfully, Chester is interested, but will need county support or a home rule authorization. He is proposing that they discuss advancing this with legislative support and reviewed a handout; Community Preservation Fund-Description and Summary of Currently Authorized Towns (see original minutes).

Discussion continued regarding the resolution, how it is up to the municipalities, and creating a new resolution if needed.

Mr. Lujan moved to support and send to the Rules Committee a resolution for a Home Rule Request in support of the New York State Legislature amending general municipal law and the tax law to include Orange County as a "designated community" within the Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act of 2007 so that local municipalities within Orange County have the ability, through referendum, to enact a revenue Stream dedicated to protection of open space, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga gave the committee an update on the County Solar Program-NACO Award. She stated that she and Legislator Ruszkiewicz attended the program where the county was recognized for its solar and point system.

Mr. Church asked that the photos taken at the program be shown to all because it is a great accomplishment.

Mr. Siljkovic addressed the committee with a PowerPoint presentation which was an Overview of Single Stream Recycling and Refrigerant Recovery in Orange County (see original minutes). The presentation included; China's Recycling Ban, Contamination, Current Tio Rates at Orange County Transfer Stations, the State of Single Stream in Orange County, Single Stream Mix-Price Index as of January 2019, What's in Your Waste, Materials Management Hierarchy, Solutions to the Issue, and Refrigerants.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.