

Pulaski-Richland Comprehensive Plan
Climate Action Plan/Climate Smart Communities
September 1, 2022

Present Dawn Holynski, Melissa Wadkinson, Jan Tighe, Shawn Doyle
Excused: Robin Philips, Donna Gilson, Robin Ford
Guest: Mike Boccuzzi, CNYRPDB

Dawn called the meeting to order at 6:04 when Shawn Doyle arrived late. Mike continues to guide the committee on updating the 2016 Climate Action Plan.

Discussion on electric vehicles, and the pros and cons of the technology. Further discussion on EV chargers, and how as Jan says we are in an EV changing “desert” with few chargers locally. Dawn noted that she has asked town officials throughout this past year about placing a charger at the share ride area at exit 35 off Interstate 81. There are other logical places to install one or two in Port Ontario on route 3. NY has a new law no more new gas vehicles sold in NY by 2035.

This committee wondered if a Dark Sky ordinance would be beneficial---after a certain time businesses have to turn off all of their lights. CAP value is to track the changes planned and done.

Shawn asked if there was buy in from NYS Schools yet. Mike reported there are purchase vouchers for electric school buses which are for 90% of the 400k cost. Mike has a white paper on school buses. EV school buses require less work. Bluebird bus manufacturer has team to teach the repair and maintenance of buses, which Mike says turns out to be less maintenance than current vehicles. 70-90% of infrastructure for charging covered by utilities.

Light homework from Mike to committee. Priority score 1-3 on the right of our handout chart. Dawn asked about invasive species section. We discussed the proliferation on these. Mike did not include this on his chart, he will cover that in the introduction as part of the consequences.

Melissa asked about compost bins. Mike said these can be purchased in bulk by municipalities to distribute, info included with these. She asked if the bins are bear and deer safe. Mike said if done correctly it will not attract animals.

Shawn asked about solar panel assistance (grants). Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) is the lead for homeowners, but county must opt in, Oswego County has not opted in. Shawn will email Amanda on the non-profit assistance.

Melissa asked if there are incentives for property owners to put plant a tree(s)? Mike, yes, through nonprofits. Discussion on villages tree city initiative.

Shawn asked for an explanation on how carbon was measured in (2011) vs. now. 2011 may have involved guessing, 2019 is accurate Mike says. We should do a new benchmark in next year or more.

Dawn noted that the last and current meetings will count as our minimal number of Climate Smart Community meetings needed. We will continue this joint committee to discuss this at all meetings.

Melissa asked about efficacy of heat pumps in our climate. Jan said that the Village pumps have worked fine.

Shawn asked about the survey information we once collected that the Village and Township, schools, businesses and nonprofits made to their buildings to become more energy efficient. Mike said it may not count towards any community points, but it is helpful for the narrative.

Mike noted that it would be valuable to obtain property efficiency/inefficiency. Would need to be incentivized many felt as legislating this would be a hard sell. Dawn: asked about the percentage of owner-occupied house in the Village, Jan: less than 50%. Dawn also asked about Airbnb rental criteria and policies.

Melissa moved the August 4, 2022 meeting minutes, Jan Tighe seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday October 6, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion by Jan, seconded by Melissa, all in favor, none opposed carried.
Adjourned at 7:28

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Doyle
Dawn Holynski