

## **Town of Mendon Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 24th, 2026

PRESENT: Peter Carosa - Task Force Coordinator  
Margaret Bailey  
Mike Burke  
Jeff Clark  
Tim Engström

ABSENT: Rebecca Kreuzer  
Kim Roberts

OTHERS: Dave McInnis

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, 7:00 PM

#### **1. Call to Order: 7:05 PM**

- It should be noted that this is the 2nd CSC Task Force meeting this month and was scheduled ad hoc at the previous Task Force meeting so as to accelerate progress on the CSC Task Force Agenda; schedule conflicts were known in advance.

#### **2. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

Approval of the meeting minutes from 3/3/2026 was tabled until the next meeting.

#### **3. Task Force Openings**

- Town Employee
  - Rebecca Kreuzer followed up with Corey Gates and confirmed he is interested in joining the CSC Task Force
- Town Resident
  - Due to travel conflicts, Jeff Clark was unable to participate in the interviews.
  - Tim & Peter conducted interviews with 5 applicants over the last 3 weeks and related that all 5 candidates were excellent and therefore suggested that the task force be expanded from 9 members to 11 members to take advantage of the experience, expertise, and enthusiasm of as many of the candidates as possible while keeping the number of members on the Task Force an odd number to avoid ties when voting. All candidates were reassured that even if they were not chosen for the Task Force that their skills & enthusiasm would be put to use in some fashion going forward.
  - Discussion followed regarding the perils of too many cooks & the chair having to manage more people vs. availability of experience & bandwidth to address the action list tasks.

- Tim noted that this is a task force, not a board, and that there will be a significant number of tasks, so better to have more people with relevant experience & expertise available to do the tasks. The five Task Force members present agreed, but Task Force expansion will have to go before the Town Board.
- Peter will share discussion with Town Board Reps who were not available for tonight's meeting, Rebecca & Kim, to determine how to propose and draft a resolution to expand the CSC Task Force to the Town Board.
- David McInnis voluntarily left the room during the candidate discussion
- Tim & Peter provided a summary of the five candidates interviewed:
  - Daniel Croft – Pulmonologist with UR Medicine who is a subject matter expert on the topic of Public Health & Health Equity
  - David McInnis – Also a member of the Town of Mendon Zoning Board of Appeals; Passionate interest in conservation & ecology; a “doer”
  - Michael Pierce – Professor at RIT, state of the art researcher; knowledgeable regarding various energy alternatives
  - Steven Barber – Chief Sustainability Officer at SUNY Brockport, RIT graduate w/ PhD in Sustainability after several years as an investment advisor; great energy
  - Ann Sandman – retired; enthusiastic about public engagement & getting everyone's voice heard
- After discussion, Task Force identified the following three candidates be recommended to the Town Board for appointment to the Task Force:
  - Daniel Croft
  - David McInnis
  - Steven Barber
- Peter will share Task Force discussion & recommendation with Rebecca, Kim, and Joe Alati to get on the agenda for the April 13th Town Board Meeting.

#### **4. CSC Task Force Action Plan Discussion**

- The original intent of this meeting was to review the previously proposed Task Force Action Plan including discussion of the proposed Mission Statement, Guiding Principles Statement, and the Decision Pathway for Mission & Focus, but this item was tabled until next meeting because Town Board Reps were not available for tonight's meeting.

#### **5. April Meetings**

- The next CSC Task Force meeting will be Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, at 7 pm
- Likely will propose a 2nd April meeting for either April 21st or 28th, to be determined at the April 7th meeting.
- The intent for April 7th will be to finish the discussion of the CSC Task Force Action Plan as mentioned above

- The intent for the 2nd April meeting will be to dig in on the CSC Action List
- 6. NY DEC is sponsoring a Climate Connection Summit in Utica on June 10th & 11th**
- <https://on.ny.gov/climate-summit>
  - Registration is required and limited to 2 participants per Municipality; additional interested parties can be added to a waitlist
  - No registration fee
  - DEC will accept registrations until capacity has been reached.
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- **Meeting Adjournment: 8:17 PM**

Submitted by: Mike Burke