

Town of Mendon Climate Smart Communities Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 7th, 2026

PRESENT: Peter Carosa - Task Force Coordinator
Margaret Bailey
Mike Burke
Rebecca Kreuzer
Kim Roberts

ABSENT: Jeff Clark
Tim Engström

OTHERS: Dave McInnis

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 21st, 2026, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order: 7:06 PM

2. Approval of Past Minutes: Minutes from March 3rd, 2026 and March 24th, 2026 were approved

3. Task Force Openings Update:

- Peter sent 3 resolutions to Supervisor
 - Expand task force from 9 to 11
 - Appoint the three new members (Daniel Croft, David McInnis, and Steven Barber)
 - Appointing Corey Gates as the Town Official. Note that Peter would still like to hear directly from Corey that he wants to be appointed.
- We don't have a high school non-voting member.
 - The Supervisor said he would consider posting something on social media and putting something in print. He will use Kim's proposed language.

4. CSC Task Force Action Plan

- **Review**
 - New Task Force Members:
 - Discussed desire to align with new Task Force members on the Action Plan once they are appointed at the next Town Board meeting. This will allow us to incorporate their input before presenting the Action Plan to the board for concurrence.
 - May Activity Submission Deadline: We will likely submit for (i) appointing a task force coordinator, and (ii) holding task force meetings. Note that both of these are required for both Bronze and Silver certification,

- Action Plan Schedule: All the dates in the Action Plan are going to need to be pushed back 1-2 months.
 - Activity Selection:
 - We can start making progress on identifying which of the Activities the Town has already completed.
 - Corey's notes on the various Activities were added to the Activities master excel file.
 - Rebecca noted that Corey's comments were made without consulting the Activity descriptions to understand the nature of the listed action. In many cases, it's not clear what is required for a given Activity without reading the description provided on the Task Force dashboard.
 - We will likely break back into our smaller groups to make further progress on identifying "already completed Activities"
 - Next Steps:
 - Peter and Rebecca to coordinate on some smaller changes.
 - Peter to create a summary presentation for the group which would form the basis of a vote on the Action Plan. This presentation would also be the foundation for the presentation that would be given to the TB for voting.
- **Adopt mission and guiding principles**
 - Holding off on voting to adopt the Task Force mission and guiding principles until the new members are on board and able to comment.
 - Some members were concerned about further delay in progress if we have to spend another month or more bringing members up to speed.
 - Decided to send the new members the information well in advance of the next meeting so they are as prepared as possible to provide feedback.
 - **Decision Pathway for Mission and Focus**
 - Reaffirmed commitment to pursuing the bronze certification as opposed to focus on the larger scale community resilience.
 - After reviewing actions more carefully, it had become even more evident to members that the Bronze certification makes grant applications stronger.
5. **2nd April Meeting:** Second meeting scheduled for 4/21. Peter will work with Michelle to provide public notification through typical channels.
 6. **Climate Action Summit:** Jeff and Tim have been looking into this. It sounds like both have registered or are planning to register to attend.

7. **Insights from Supervisor Alati:** Peter provided some intel he received from a recent conversation with the Supervisor
- VEREGY Energy Audit:
 - Town is entering into an agreement with a third party that does energy audits for municipalities to identify areas for where they can make improvements.
 - The energy audit they provide does not meet the requirements of a Level 1, 2 or 3 audit that is required to get credit for the CSC Program.
 - Discussion around the types of energy audits and audit providers.
 - Lima spent several thousand dollars on an energy audit from NYSERDA to get CSC Credits.
 - Peter will try to get additional information about the service VEREGY provides and the nature of the agreement the Town is entering into.
 - Town Hall Air Quality
 - There were reports of air quality issues at the town hall. There is a running “joke” at the Town Hall that everyone develops asthma or allergies within a year of starting work there.
 - Supervisor Alati is looking into whether that’s a legitimate concern and if an air purification system is warranted.
 - One of the ZBA members has experience with air quality issues and is willing to provide some guidance to the town.
 - Communication channels
 - Discussion about confusion related to communication channels and who should be communicating with the supervisor.
 - One one hand, having more communication can be beneficial. On the other hand, too many lines of communication can create greater opportunity for misunderstanding and miscommunication.
 - Rebecca noted that the Board is relatively new and that many policies are outdated or not yet established. She indicated that the Board is actively working to identify and prioritize these gaps and would benefit from greater alignment on communication expectations.

8. Meeting Adjournment

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