

TOMPKINS COUNTY Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, 4:00-6:00PM
Final Minutes

Attendance

Member		Member		Staff	
Andrea Aguirre	P	Tony Ingraffea (associate)*	E	Terry Carroll	P
Sara Culotta	P	Stefan Jirka	P	Hailley Delisle	P
Anne Koreman*	P	Guillermo Metz	P	Kristin McCarthy	P
Brian Eden	P	Gavin Mosley	P		
Danielle Eiseman	P	Alex Rakow (associate)*	E		
Rebecca Evans	P	Sarah Schnabel	P		
Evan Hallas	E	Irene Weiser			
Robert Howarth (ex officio)*	P				

*Non-voting member

Guests: Peter Bardaglio, Chuck Geisler, Sara Hess, Buzz Lavine, Marie McRae, Gay Nicholson, Martha Robertson, Brad Will, Joe Wilson

1. Call to Order/Agenda Review – Chair Sara Culotta called the meeting to order at 4:01pm and reviewed the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes – The draft December 2022 minutes were approved (motion by Irene Weiser, second by Andrea Aguirre) with one edit (“McReady” was changed to “Make Ready”). Motion carried.

3. Public Comment – Guests commented on governor’s budget, the State of the State address, and CaSE’s possible role in supporting state environmental and energy-related legislation. Peter Bardaglio talked about the Ithaca 2030 District annual report and transportation survey for building occupants.

4. Member Updates – Members discussed NYSEG billing issues and upcoming Public Service Commission hearings, efforts to form a local referral network of environmentally-minded tradespeople/contractors, and NYS legislation requiring carpet manufacturers to establish a convenient program for the collection and recycling of unused or discarded carpeting. Sara shared that she is serving on the advisory committee for the NY Climate Leaders Project, a partnership program between SUNY-ESF and SEI, a climate education nonprofit. Guillermo reported that Cooperative Extension is hiring for a regional Climate Smart Communities coordinator.

5. Action: Nominate and Elect 2023 Chair and Vice Chair

Gavin Mosely, on behalf of the Nominating Committee (Gavin Mosley, Danielle Eiseman, Stefan Jirka), presented the 2023 slate of officers for consideration. Nominations were solicited from the floor, but none were offered. No further discussion.

Action: Gavin Mosley made a motion, which Danielle Eiseman seconded, to elect Sara Culotta the 2023 chair and Irene Weiser vice chair of the Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board. Motion carried.

6. Chair’s Report: 2022 Highlights; 2023 Board Logistics; Board Activity Updates

Sara shared highlights from the board’s work in 2022 and shared logistical tips for meeting facilitation in 2023. Group reviewed who had signed up to facilitate a meeting so far and encouraged anyone who hadn’t yet to do so. Danielle reported that Sarah Schnabel, Gina Cassidy (Cooperative Extension), and Ben Carver (Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services) have joined the manufactured housing working

group. She also updated group on conversations with County legislators Mike Lane and Randy Brown, scheduled presentation by Jon Greenbaum of Pathstone on protecting residents' interests when ownership of manufactured housing parks changes hands, NYS First Right of Refusal law, and developments with student project at Cornell.

7. Presentation/Discussion: NYS Climate Action Council Final Scoping Plan – *Bob Howarth*

Bob gave an overview of the final climate scoping plan for New York State. His presentation included a primer on Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act mandates, timeline for actions taken by Climate Action Council, advisory panels, and subgroups, reviewed the plan's executive summary, next steps in terms of implementation by state agencies, and more. Q&A discussion covered multiple topics, including building codes and new construction versus retrofits, public and private financing incentives, natural refrigerants in heat pumps, transportation and subsidizing EV purchasing for low-income households, upgrading electric grid, sustainable forest management, soil health, livestock management strategies, clean energy siting and local laws, gas system transition, and more. Members lauded Bob's work in meeting with other Climate Action Council committee members to secure language in the final scoping plan that minimized reliance on hydrogen and renewable natural gas.

8. Report/Discussion: Climate Smart Communities Task Force Designation – *Terry Carroll*

Terry gave an overview of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program and what's involved in the designation and recertification process. Hailley will serve as the County's coordinator, and the department would like CaSE to take on the role of CSC task force – its predecessor, the TC Energy Task Force, held the position previously. Questions covered workload, periodic updates and review of documents, brainstorming on ways to involve County, grant funding, and collaborating with DEC and Cooperative Extension.

9. Action: Recommend CaSE Board Serve as CSC Task Force for TC

Action: A motion by Irene Weiser, seconded by Guillermo Metz, Irene made a motion, which Guillermo seconded, to recommend the CaSE Board serve as CSC Task Force for TC. Motion carried.

10. Staff Report (*as needed*)

Terry reported on upcoming presentation to County Legislature on green energy procurement at Waterloo hydroelectric facility, updates to Legislature on energy projects and CLCPA, and status of NYSERDA's Caswell landfill solar project.

11. Meeting Wrap-up

Everyone congratulated Andrea on the birth of her son, Victor Andres.

12. Adjournment – Chair Sara Culotta adjourned the meeting at 6:02pm.