

## Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Taskforce Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Attendees:

- Cece W.
- Jimmy J.
- Jane M.
- Nancy H.
- Mariah
- Severah
- Collin H.
- Lori A.
- Janet B.
- Bridgett M.

### 1. Town Updates

- **Composting at the Transfer Site:**  
Jimmy reported that a new concrete collection area for composting is being built at the Clayton Transfer Site, expected to be completed by the end of the week.
    - **Signage:** Nancy noted ongoing confusion about where to drop off compost and suggested clearer signage. Jimmy plans to add more signs and develop a flyer explaining where and how to compost.
    - **Community Feedback:** Nancy shared that some residents have stopped composting because they find it “too dirty.”
    - **Windrow Conditions:** Jimmy said the main issue is low moisture in the windrow, but otherwise, the compost is healthy and expected to produce high-quality soil. To address the moisture problem, the Fire Department added 15,000 gallons of water to the pile.
    - **Certification:** Jimmy submitted documentation to Carly and is awaiting feedback.
    - **Fleet Inventory:** Mariah mentioned that the Town has already completed most of its fleet inventory; Jimmy will confirm. Once verified, it should be ready to submit to Carly.
    - **EV Charger Project:** The Rec Park EV charger project is slightly delayed but still moving forward.
      - Cece noted that there’s a statewide campaign for EV chargers that could make the Town eligible for 3–30 Climate Smart points.
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### 2. Pollinator Garden

- Janet suggested starting the project now and recruiting volunteers to begin growing seedlings for spring planting.
- Jimmy still envisions the garden at the Transfer Site, about 10 feet off the fence.

- Nancy and Jimmy agreed that the garden should be volunteer-led, as Town and Village staff cannot dedicate work hours to it.
  - Jane expressed concern that a Transfer Site location might discourage volunteers since it's less central than the Village.
  - Nancy raised safety concerns about potential bee stings if it were placed in a busy Village area.
  - Cece asked if a low-maintenance native seed mix could be used at the Transfer Site.
  - Cece also suggested posting on social media to recruit volunteers and offered to help personally when planting time comes.
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### **3. MACNC Autumn Fest**

- Bridgett (TILT) and Cece (JCPHS) will both attend.
  - Bridgett will bring Climate Smart Communities (CSC) materials for the table.
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### **4. Walking School Bus**

- Cece spoke with Kelly Picunus, who is interested in helping next year.
  - She also connected with Margaret Hummel from the Clayton Preschool, who expressed interest.
  - Cece suggested having a high school student decorate a cardboard "school bus" cutout for photos and promotion during walks.
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### **5. Bike Path**

- Cece shared that Barb reached out to DOT, but found that creating a bike path would be a large-scale undertaking.
  - Nancy mentioned that during a meeting with Scott Gray, Mark Walczyk, and others, the idea received strong enthusiasm. She plans to follow up with the contacts provided and noted the tourism benefits such a path could bring.
  - Nancy would also like to connect with Cape Vincent and eventually approach TILT for involvement.
  - Route 12 is not a feasible option due to complexity, but other routes will be explored.
  - Janet suggested looking into the Rails-to-Trails program.
  - Nancy supported Barb's idea of reviving a triathlon, though it should be led by the athletic community rather than CSC.
  - Janet proposed creating a map of accessible trails that could potentially link together.
  - Cece suggested adding Clayton's bike racks to Google Maps to promote cycling.
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## **6. Spring Fest 2026**

- Cece asked for someone to take the lead this year, as she will be out of town the week before the event.
  - Jimmy offered to head up planning, since the event will be held at Rec Park.
  - Cece recommended incorporating more kid-friendly activities and possibly food or coffee trucks to attract visitors.
  - Jimmy said he could partner with the Chamber of Commerce on event coordination.
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## **7. Earning More Climate Points**

- Cece emphasized the need to identify and pursue additional point opportunities. She asked if the Town plans to complete a government GHG inventory, similar to the Village.
  - Jimmy is unsure where to start but willing to learn.
  - Nancy said Carly was very helpful in explaining required documentation.
  - Cece proposed organizing a community-led emissions inventory separate from the government's, possibly forming a Community Climate Action Plan later.
  - She also suggested hosting annual or semiannual community meetings to share CSC progress and encourage participation.
  - Cece noted that NYSERDA offers free energy code enforcement training and asked whether brush pickup programs might earn points.
  - She encouraged exploring new local policies to promote sustainability and walking/biking initiatives, including social media outreach to inspire residents.
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## **8. CSC Communications**

- Social Media Updates: Bridgett McCann — [bmccann@tilandtrust.org](mailto:bmccann@tilandtrust.org)
  - CSC Webpage Updates: Amanda Cantwell — [deputyclerk@villageofclayton.org](mailto:deputyclerk@villageofclayton.org)
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## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 – 12:30 PM

